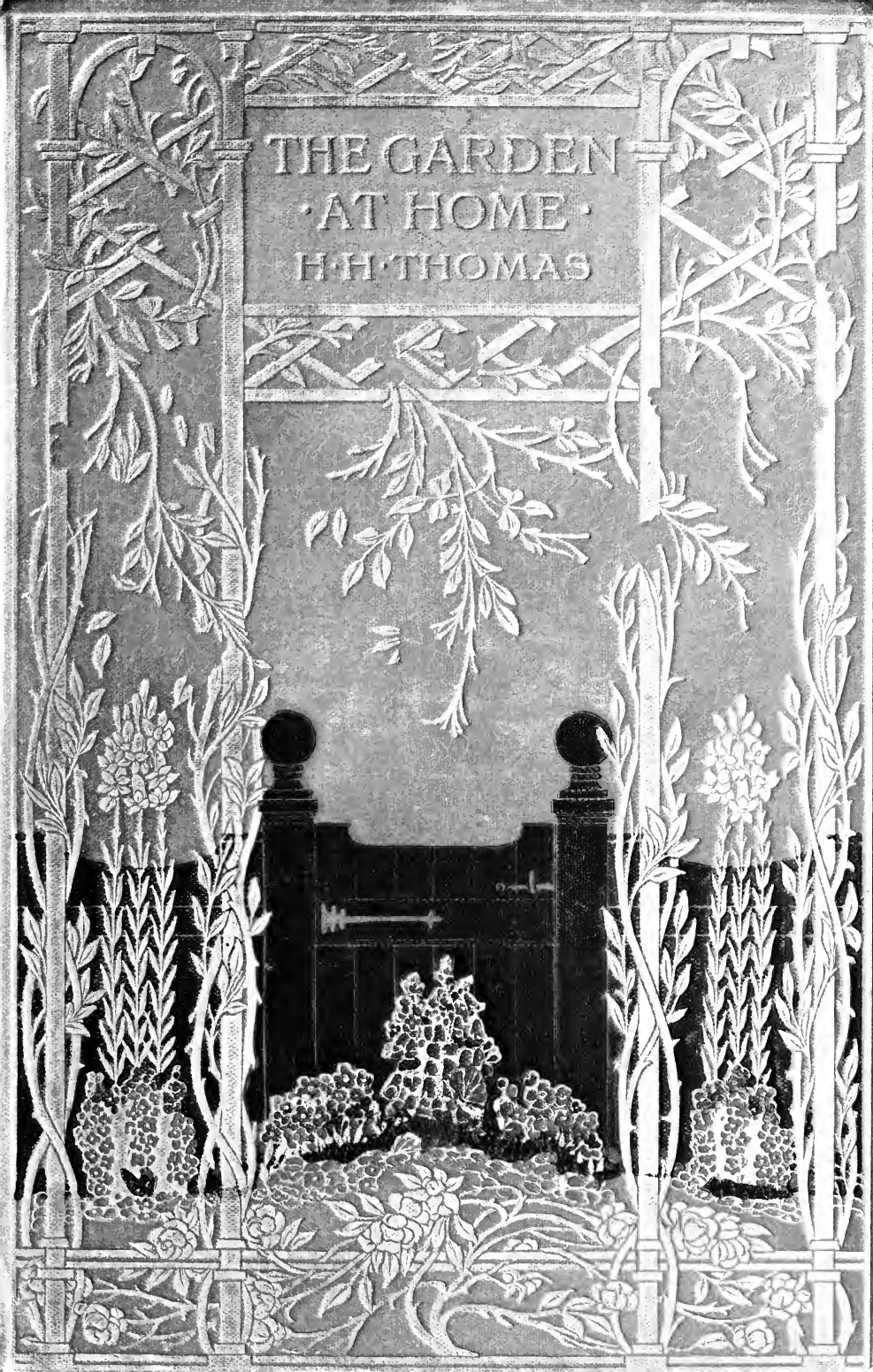
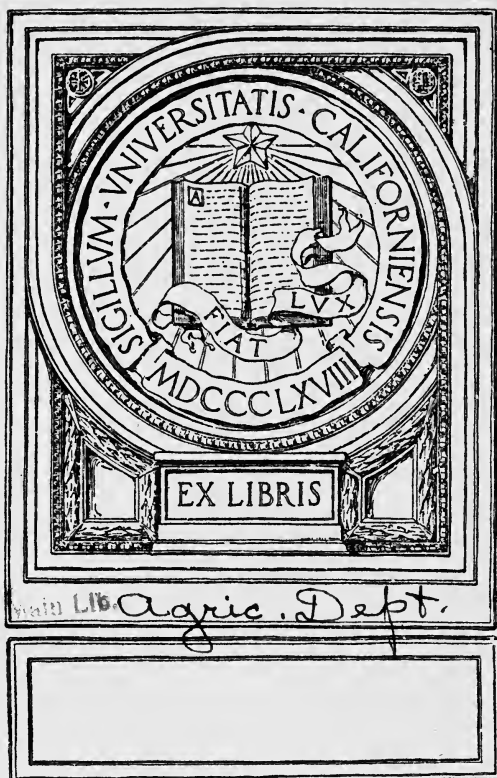


THE GARDEN
· AT HOME ·
H·H·THOMAS





THE GARDEN AT HOME

By the Same Author

THE COMPLETE
GARDENER

THE IDEAL GARDEN
GARDEN PLANNING AND
PLANTING

GARDENING DIFFICULTIES
SOLVED

SWEET PEAS AND HOW
TO GROW THEM

LITTLE GARDENS

CASSELL & Co., LTD., LONDON, E.C.



THE WATER GARDEN AT SHOREHAM COTTAGE, KENT

THE GARDEN AT HOME

BY
H. H. THOMAS

“
Author of “The Ideal Garden,” etc.
Editor of “The Gardener”

WITH 12 FULL-PAGE PLATES FROM PHOTOGRAPHS IN NATURAL
COLOURS AND 96 HALF-TONE ILLUSTRATIONS



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PREFACE

Too often is the garden at home marred by the reproach of dullness that is apparent in every bed and border, in every walk—nay, in every weed. There is nothing individual in its charm ; it has no glamour of its own. Its successes are those of a hundred others, and there is nothing characteristic even in its faults.

Commonplace practice fashions a wide groove in which it is easy to follow, but from which it becomes increasingly difficult to escape. So one home gardener works very much like another because his attention is fixed on the long, straight road in front, which has thrown dust in his eyes, blinding him to the charm of the luxuriant hedgerows on either side. An old French proverb says, “ *La variété c’est la vie,*” but the average owner of a garden appears to have views of his own on the subject. Otherwise, to take only one instance, why, five years ago, if he wanted a climbing rose, did he choose Crimson Rambler, and later, when dispensing with this, select only Dorothy Perkins? For the simple reason that his neighbour did the same.

The amateur gardener is the most difficult person in the world to convince—at least, until he becomes fairly accomplished. As I have put it somewhere in these pages, he continues “ to grow the weeds that cluster on

the outskirts of a vast realm of unknown flowers, instead of entering the wide-open gates and choosing among a galaxy of bloom. Lots of home gardens are lovely now, but under a discerning gardener how much lovelier might not they be ! ”

In “ The Garden at Home ” I have endeavoured to raise a finger-post here and there on the commonplace way, pointing in such direction as I thought flower-magic lay. This is chiefly found, I think, where the old and the new commingle, and the following chapters are based on this belief.

Many of the illustrations are from my own photographs ; all, it is hoped, will help to show the possibilities of the garden at home. I am indebted to Mr. F. R. Castle for the table of Popular Vegetables published at the end of the book. H. H. T.

February, 1912.

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THE GARDEN AT HOME

CHAPTER I

GARDEN MAGIC

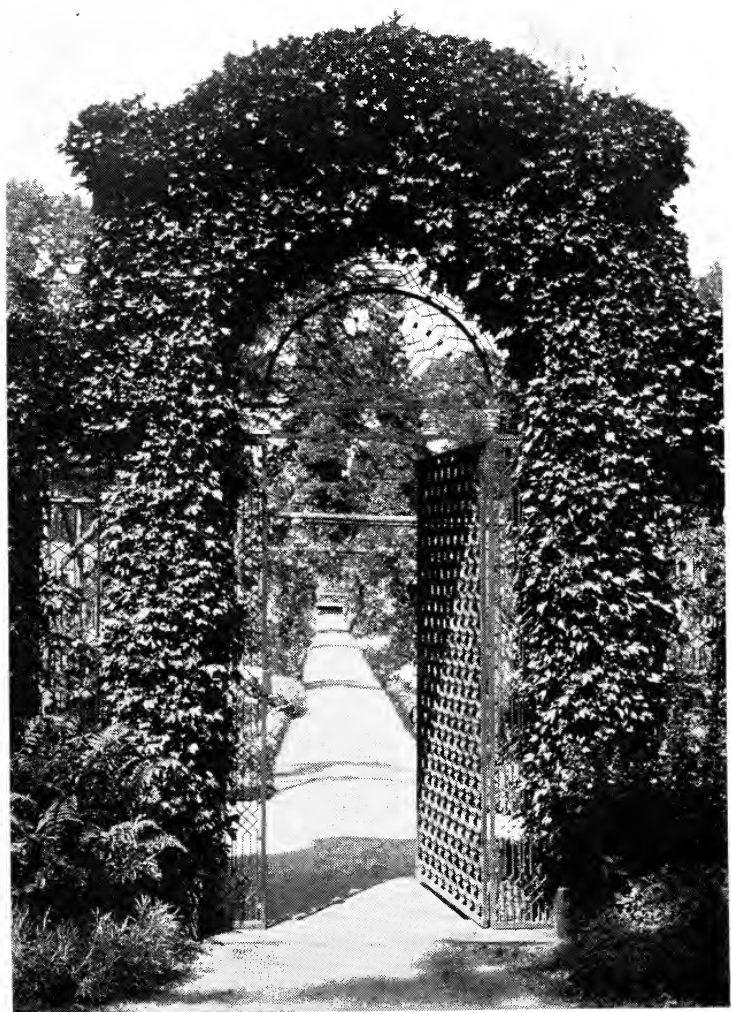
Gardening, like golf, is a dull business to the looker-on, but reveals a little heaven on earth to the worker.

THOSE who scoff at gardening, or affect an indifference to flower growing, are deserving of sympathy; they do themselves an injustice, and speak of what they do not know. It is a common experience that only they who have a garden of their own are able to appreciate its charm, and invariably their appreciation increases as each flower season passes. Once the gardener becomes imbued with a love for plants and flowers, he finds that the discovery of one secret, the solving of one problem, satisfying though it may be, but opens up the way to many more. And so there arises an interest that is stimulated and sustained, now by failure, now by success, again by hope deferred, or by ideals realised. The strangers without the garden gates, those who have never solved one gardening problem, never pulled one weed, have no conception of the joy that follows in the train of even a *Geranium* well grown.

THE GARDEN AT HOME

Gardening, like golf, is a dull business to the looker-on, but reveals a little heaven on earth to the worker. One hears of men and women taking up this and giving up that ; pleasure has cloyed, the problems are mastered that, not understood, allured, and from within the prospect is not so enchanting as from without. But who ever heard of anyone giving up gardening after once starting it in earnest ? Not only is this improbable, but it is scarcely possible. There is no finiteness about gardening ; one cannot say after a year or two spent among the flowers that their secrets are made plain, their likes and dislikes understood. Their ways are inscrutable, their behaviour is often disappointing, the future always uncertain, and the issue ever in doubt. And so there hovers over the garden a glamour born of wonderment, sustained by mystery, and not dispelled by experience.

The gardener never knows ; he can only hope, and live in hope ; and surely this is the finest tonic for all of us in this topsy-turvy, workaday world. The flowers that flourished last summer may languish the next, the border that was a failure last year may this year be a great success. One season's experience, helpful though it may be, is no guarantee of success for another, and one year's failure leaves the following year's issue still in doubt. In truth, one can foretell the future in gardening as little as one can prophesy next week's weather. The spell of a great mystery holds it. And



A GARDEN GATEWAY



BUSH OF VERONICA IN A SURREY GARDEN

GARDEN MAGIC

the unknown always entices ; the mysterious always attracts.

So, once a gardener always a gardener, for the reason that, despite one's best efforts, a glorious uncertainty must ever prevail, let rules and methods be followed as closely as they may. But far and above even this (or gardening might claim no greater fascination than one of the many games of ball) is the love of flowers its pursuit creates—a love that each month makes stronger, a love that each year binds closer. With the love comes knowledge of the ways of plants and flowers, and with the knowledge a conviction that there is so much to learn that one can never hope to learn it all. For these and other reasons, each spring finds the gardener's joy undimmed ; the farther he progresses the more subtly is he entranced, and so impelled to probe the problems still unsolved.

Best of all, perhaps, the gardening experience of one is always different from that of another ; thus, while sharing a common joy, each has his own especial successes, his own particular failures, and is impressed, as none other is impressed, with the charm of his own home garden plot.

CHAPTER II

THE JOY OF COMPARATIVE SUCCESS

“Whom little will not, nothing will content.”

How satisfactory for our peace of mind, how nice for the garden, and how salutary for our vanity, did we but recognise that success in gardening conforms to no standard, to no set rule, but is governed by a comparative test. But we don't ; hence heartburnings that irritate and teach us to belittle our own modest achievements. Because the professional gardener, fully equipped by his employer with every aid that garden craft can suggest, grows Chrysanthemums 6 feet high and crowns each with a huge, mop-headed bloom, shall we whimper and whine and disparage our own though they are only 3 feet high, yet smothered in smaller blossom ? And because his elaborate Orchid houses, teak-built, water-tanked, and deftly shaded, produce plants with sixteen spikes of bloom, shall we consign to the rubbish heap ours that yield only six ? Or because by lavish expenditure he gets Roses all the year round, and we only in summer and autumn, shall we give up Rose-growing as hopeless ? Why should we ? Is not the measure of success found in the pleasure that ensues ? Most assuredly.

THE JOY OF COMPARATIVE SUCCESS

And we who only get flowers from our plants by much persuasion, probably appreciate them more than others to whom the finest come as a matter of course.

One ought to be able to enjoy to the full the incomparable beauty of an up-to-date display of Orchids in the rudest of health and full of the most bewitching flowers, yet be equally content with the half-dozen *Cypripediums* that thrive more or less contentedly in the greenhouse at home. What if every now and then a leaf turns yellow or a flower bud fails to fulfil its promise? Why—those that remain receive all the greater care. And if one is enthralled with the inspiring sight of a whole gamut of pink Roses of the same variety, jostling each other for breathing space in some giant flower bed, the Roses at home, with whose every petal one is acquainted and upon whose leaves one is able almost to detect every fresh greenfly that appears, should arouse much keener delight, for one has tended them from birth, and the tending has been a labour of love. It is the same the garden through.

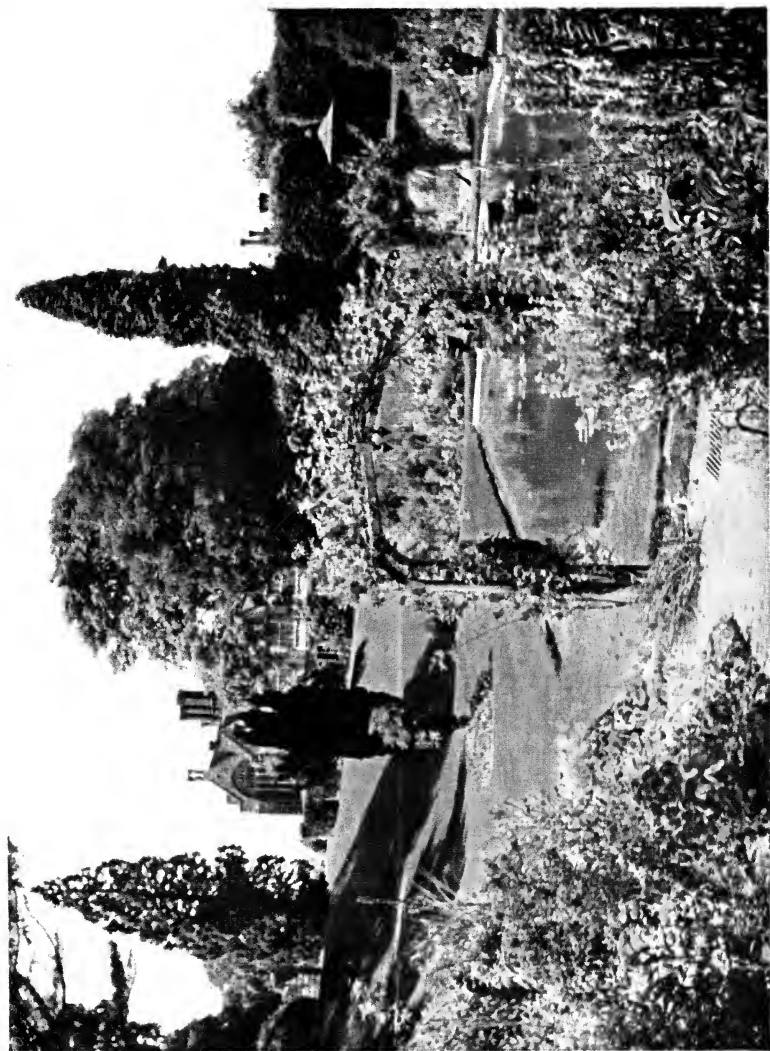
What quaint ideas some of us have on the score of gardening success! How bizarre are some of the results that seemingly give chief delight! If a Hollyhock or a yellow-faced, black-nosed Sunflower grows 10 feet high instead of its normal 5 feet or 6 feet, at once we write to the papers and record the fact. And until someone ventures the statement that his Hollyhock or Sunflower has overtopped ours by a good 6 inches,

THE GARDEN AT HOME

we ride the high hobby horse and plume ourselves that never was such gardening known! Yet why this infatuated delight and exaggerated pleasure in something that is altogether abnormal, therefore not truly representative of the plants we grow? It arises from a false conception of the beauty of flowers, and the more we strive after big blooms and extraordinary stature, or some other unnatural feature, the less likely are we to appreciate plants and flowers in their usual proportions and showing their natural charm. More often than not extra size in blossom or an increased number of blooms is only obtained at the expense of symmetry and natural grace, and the due appreciation of a plant in its normal state is an admirable trait, though, alas! often wanting in the home gardener.

If we must emulate those who grow the finest possible flowers, let us at least meet them on common ground. There are many hardy flowers which, if we would only plant them well and leave them alone, we might grow as successfully as the most skilled of expert gardeners. But the real pleasure of gardening is not found in striving to eclipse the achievements of others, for such striving leads eventually to the show board, where the flowers, cut from the plants, are arranged, it may be, in paper collars or in zinc cups on painted boxes in competition with others of their kind, and where the biggest "rules the roost."

It is not in this direction that garden magic lies.



THE MONKS' GARDEN, KNOLE PARK

THE JOY OF COMPARATIVE SUCCESS

Rather is it in the contemplative study of the individual perfection of every kind of plant we grow : in so closely making its acquaintance that we are able to anticipate its needs, tending it from birth that we may the better appreciate its harvest of blossom. “ Whom little will not, nothing will content ” is a proverb that merits a conspicuous place in every flower plot, for it epitomises the creed of the home gardener, and upon its acceptance rests the appreciation of the joy of comparative success.

CHAPTER III

PLOTTING AND PLANNING

Viewed from the warm fireside, the future of the garden is rosy, the seeds sprout without exception, grow green and come to blossom.

Is there any recreation comparable to that of plotting and planning a garden—that is to say, one's own garden? I doubt if any at once so well occupies the present and fills the future with pleasant dreams, and he who dreams is happy, proof against the mischances of the moment, for his thoughts are fixed on a bright future. If to-day's expectations are disappointed—well, there are to-morrows, and the glamour of romance still enshrines them.

When should the gardening year begin? There are many opinions, but my own is that the dull season is the time, and the warm fireside the place, to make a start. There, with his books and catalogues and papers, the beginner is less likely to be disheartened; for, thus viewed, the future of his garden is rosy, the seeds sprout without exception, grow green, and come to blossom; the lawns are close, velvety, and soft; the roses smother the leaves in bloom, and all is well. Disillusion at the outset is gall to the tyro's soul, for his ideals are pitched high, and the fall is sure to be far. When with experience has come

PLOTTING AND PLANNING

some glimmering of the fascination that soil cultivation compels, the non-materialisation of ideals is of less import ; the gardener will feel impelled to follow with good, thick boots the way his shoes have trodden.

But turn the beginner on the ground on a typical November day, when the sky hangs like a pall and a keen wind whistles through the trees, thrust a spade into his hands and bid him dig the cold, clammy soil, and even a modern Mark Tapley will scarcely survive the ordeal. Yet seat him in his own inglenook with his slippered toes well warmed by logs in the open grate, ply him with gaudy catalogues full of coloured plates, showing favourite flowers twice as big as they really are, showing pink flowers red and red ones scarlet, surround him with books about gardening that picture seductive green walks between borders full to overflowing with bloom, then you excite his imagination—he dreams dreams, sets up ideals, and sees the result of his labour without counting the toil.

When winter wanes at the touch of spring, when the ground surface at least is dry and the sun breaks the drab sky into a patchwork of blue and grey, turn him out with spade and fork, and there shall be no looking back. For spring is coming, winter is a thing of the past, his thoughts turn naturally to fresh young life, just as in autumn they turn to things that fade and fall and die. It might, perhaps, be worth while to risk something in October for the sake of a Daffodil and Tulip show in

THE GARDEN AT HOME

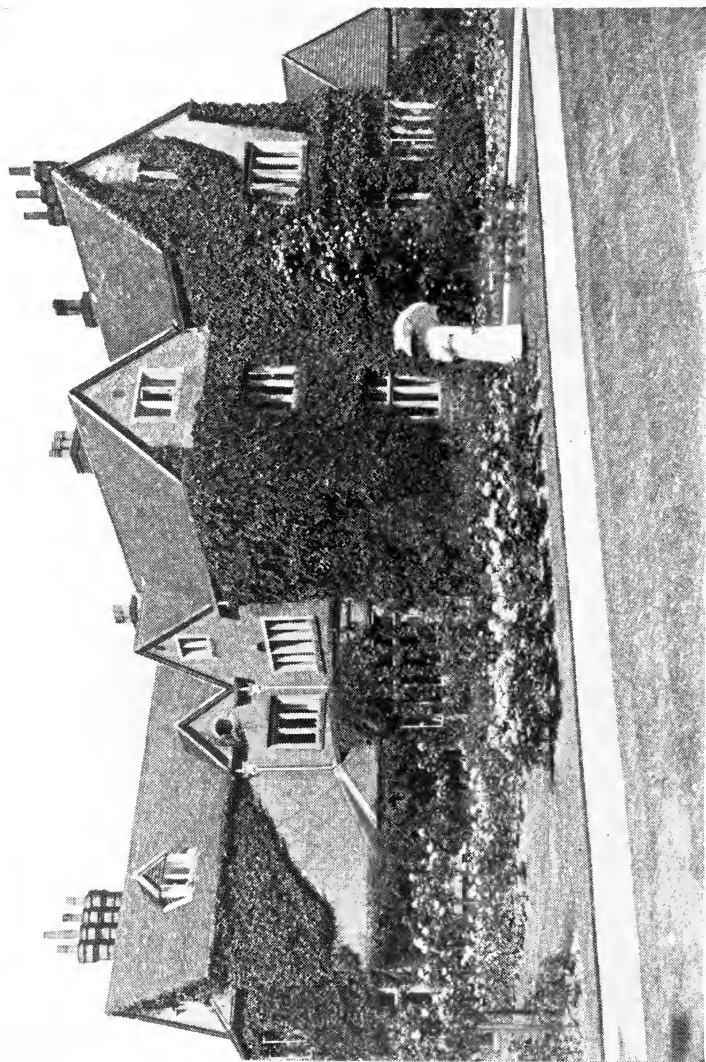
spring ; but better that the beginner should go Daffodil- and Tulip-less than be disheartened and disillusioned at the outset. Let the garden call with its most alluring voice, soft and caressing on the breath of spring ; then shall it make irresistible appeal, and come with seductive beguiling.

Yes, although it may be against the traditions, I shall advise the reader, if he be a novice in gardening, to plot and plan indoors while the winter lasts, and come out of his shell in the spring. I am confident he will get more fun out of it than the reckless beginner who feels that he must, as the textbooks have it, dig the soil well in autumn, throw it up in the form of trenches so that the frost, rain, and snow, and all the other uncomfortable elements may exert their influence upon it. The chances are that the soil will be just as difficult as ever again in February, and the digging will have to be done all over again. I know of at least one professional gardener who considers February to be the best month of all for digging and trenching ; for, as he justly observes, if the land is at all heavy, it will have to be redug in early spring, even if trenched in autumn. Besides, it is much better for the garden that it should be planned and replanned on paper and in imagination before even a path is made ; for how much more easily is it made than unmade !

In plotting and planning first thoughts are not always best. Perhaps the chief danger that confronts the fire-side gardener is that he shall have every yard of ground



FLOWER FRINGED STEPS IN THE ROCK GARDEN



THE ROSE GARDEN AT THE MANOR HOUSE, WENDOVER

PLOTTING AND PLANNING

mapped out with walks, beds, and borders. He could scarcely make a greater mistake, for a garden design on paper is apt to be disappointing when actually carried out on the ground.

Let it not be thought that I am out to praise the fine-weather gardener ; he will surely fail, as he deserves. But all who have tended their flowers in fair weather and in foul must realise that only the memories of past success, and the sure knowledge that they are laying up a store of future delight, give zest to prosaic gardening tasks, carrying the workers undeterred through the digging and trenching, planting and staking, when the fireside makes strong appeal to the inclinations and plays sad havoc with one's store of determination. But the beginner has still to experience the satisfaction of reaping the fruits of his labour, and for him the bad weather has no compensation in happy memories or in visions of future joy.

How shall one give exact advice on planning the home garden ? Shall not each work out its own destiny in the hands of its owner ? Surely this is best. The home garden planned by another never quite expresses the intentions of the gardener, never quite fulfils his ideals. So if by chance I can give a hint or two, that is all I shall attempt. The reader will, in time to come, be pleased both with himself and with the writer that he was left to fill in the details, for it is chiefly in its details that one garden is distinguished from another. I have elsewhere tried to vivify the charm of the little formal garden and

THE GARDEN AT HOME

the garden of roses, the witchery of the garden dell, the magic of rock and alpine flowers. Let me attempt in some measure to point out one way in which the home garden may be laid out.

Beginning not far from the windows, and stretching for some distance, I would have lawn, smooth, fresh, verdant grass, that is always pleasant to look upon—in spring, the purest green in the garden ; in summer, attractive and the essence of restfulness, lending a fresh beauty to the neighbouring borders of flowers ; in autumn, a mosaic of multi-coloured leaves ; even in winter full of charm when the snow, pure, virgin white, lies there as it seems to lie nowhere else. No walks should traverse it, no beds disfigure it. Gravel paths, skirting it on either side, might lead to an orchard beyond, where, without seeming change, the garden should merge into its surroundings so that none could say quite where the garden ended or the world outside began. This should be an orchard of spring loveliness and autumn fruit ; but it should not be of luscious fruiting trees alone. Here and there I would group the Siberian Crab, Almond and Flowering Peach, Flowering Plum and Flowering Cherry, and, greatly daring, mix Laburnum with red-flowered May.

Towards the front, margined by a border of low-growing flowers or a simple little rockery overflowing each spring with rivulets of bloom, I should have a planting of dwarf fruit trees, chiefly of Apples and Pears. Behind

PLOTTING AND PLANNING

and beyond would arise tall standards, also of Apples and Pears, but of luscious Plums and Cherries too, with here and there a few of the ornamental trees just mentioned. And behind them all the vegetable plot. The standard trees would be on grass land, and in April the ground should be aglow with Daffodils and in May a mist of Bluebell blossom.

Away from the lawn and on either side of it, what shall we do? Abutting on the grass I would have long, wide borders of hardy flowers filled with all that is best and gayest of homely plants, and behind the borders, on one side a rock garden, and on the other a garden of roses. Quite close to the house, each will surely like to choose for himself; but, above all things, the flowers in the little borders there should be fragrant. If there is a dip in the ground between the house and the lawn, an opportunity arises for making a little formal terrace upon which we may plant a garden of herbs or make it gay with plants in tubs and vases—with sweet-scented Geraniums, Oleander, lemon Verbena, Pomegranate, and African Lily (*Agapanthus*), all of which need to be safely housed for the winter.

I am conscious that this frail suggestion, one of an illimitable number of ways of fashioning the home garden, can scarcely hope to materialise on the reader's ground, though some part of it may possibly appeal. All that I wish to do is to show how a garden gains in charm and captivation when it is planned on simple lines, and each

THE GARDEN AT HOME

characteristic feature is made to furnish a little garden of its own. Not only do the plants thrive better, but they afford far greater pleasure than when indiscriminately mixed. In final reasoning, and to paraphrase an old proverb, let me say that an ounce of plotting is worth a pound of planting.

CHAPTER IV

THE GARDEN DELL

Nothing so puffs up the gardener with pride as his ability to say, "I made this high where once it was low."

A GARDEN that is flat misses much of the joy of life, and its possessor some of the joy of living. It has to be laid out in a more or less conventional fashion, but one that has little hills and shallow hollows—why, there is no laying it out; it just makes itself, and carries the gardener with it. He spends no time in planning this bed or that border, but makes the walks wherever he can, between banks here, circling a mound there, and hiding behind a hillock somewhere else. He no longer controls the going of the garden, but just adapts his methods to the ground. Perhaps, after all, this is the way to make a garden that shall breathe the true spirit of a home of flowers. And what variety of aspect is thus offered to the flower grower for favourites that love either sunshine or shade, dry soil or wet soil, wind or shelter! What chances are his if only he will make the most of them!

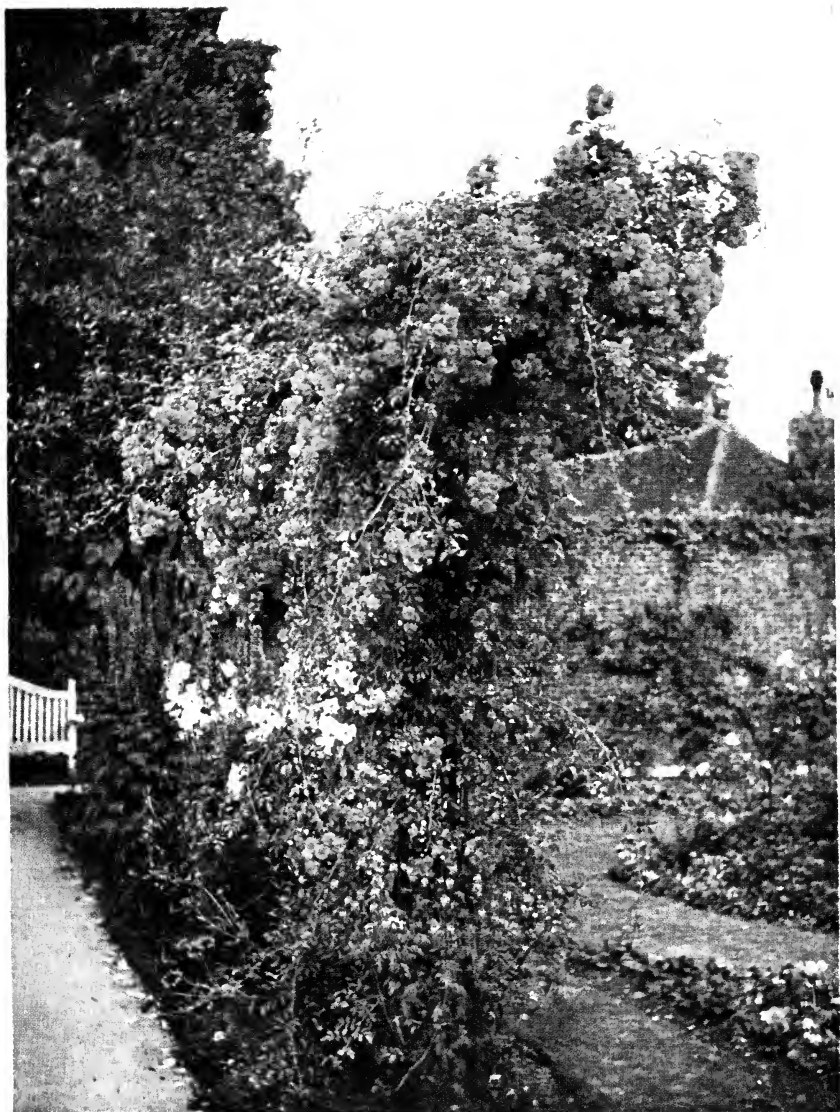
But how few of us possess a garden with a real dell already made! That is, however, no reason why we

THE GARDEN AT HOME

should not make one. Nothing adds more directly to the fascination of a garden than irregularity of surface outline. One may put up hedges, build arbours and pergolas on flat ground, and cover them with pleasant leaves and bewitching blossom to shut out its all too apparent nakedness, or to hide its limited extent, but nothing so simply and effectually achieves these aims as the making of a dell. For does not this mean also the building of a hill, big or little, as the depth of the hollow? And if somewhat hard work, still, how fascinating, for nothing so puffs up the gardener with pride as his ability to say, "I made this high where once it was low," or "Where now you see flower-beds, once was lawn."

Every autumn all good gardeners make some ground alterations, and one of the great charms of gardening is found in the fact that one has never done. Each autumn, as the pageant of spring and summer bloom is passed in review, the thought occurs that this might be improved, that altered, or something else created. Forthwith out come spade and fork, and the gardener sets to work to fashion in soil the air castles he has built. And what work more entrancing than to watch the hollows deepen, the little hilltops rise, the walks that were straight made winding, the border plain grow beautiful?

The size of the dell will largely determine how it is to be planted. If there is room, the banks can be clothed with nothing more fair than Rhododendrons, green of



ROSE LADY GAY TRAINED OVER AN OLD TREE STUMP

THE GARDEN DELL

leaf the whole year round, gay with bloom in summer. Then, as seen from a neighbouring knoll in May and June, the display will indeed be one of delight, for how better can one appreciate the beauty of a *Rhododendron* than by looking down upon it? For pleasure as one walks the dell, shall there not be, in spring, great colonies of giant Trumpet Daffodils and Poet's Narcissi, with Crocus and Snowdrop, Hepatica and Squill; in high summer groups of fair and most fragrant Lilies, and the Ferns' soft harmony of green; in chill autumn days spires of Golden Rod, delicate flower groups of Japanese Anemones, white Moon Daisies, and mauve Starworts? Yes, there shall be beauty enough and to spare for the observant passer-by as well as for those who find chief pleasure in a rich colour display.

If the walk meanders through the dell waywardly as though unable to tear itself away, leaving little hills in its train, what better to crown them with than such exquisite flowering shrubs as *Pyrus floribunda*, the Ornamental Peach, the Yulan, the Golden Bell (*Forsythia*), Laburnum, and Thorn—all fair flowers of spring? For summer show the New Zealand Daisy Bush (*Olearia*) and Mexican Orange Blossom (*Choisya*); and for autumn, Flame Flower and Pampas Grass. If space (against which so many of us have serious complaint) allows, then what more bewitching than a group of silver Birch on a grassy mound carpeted in May with Bluebells. It is as though heaven and earth had for the time changed

THE GARDEN AT HOME

places, for the earth is a sky of blue and the heaven a fairy forest of tender green.

If the dell is small and circumscribed, it is still to be made most beautiful. Its sides may be so cramped as to be almost perpendicular, but what matters it if we clothe the bare earth with an evergreen carpet of London Pride, that studs itself with graceful bloom in June, or the Tufted Saxifrage, that spreads in surprising fashion, and smothers itself in white blossom in April and May? In the shadiest corners we shall put the purple Flag Iris and the Plantain Lily, two plants rich in flower beauty and not less rich in charm of leaf.

If there is a marshy spot with a little shallow pool then, mirrored in the depths like a golden crown, the Marsh Marigold shall find a home on the margin. All florist's flowers shall be taboo in the garden dell, to which right association of leaf and flower alone shall be the passport. No plants of stunted leaves and exaggerated blooms shall pass the portals, for to admit such would be to create a false note that would surely raise discordant echoes throughout its hills and hollows. If, near the bog or water-pool, we build a few rough stones and cover them with evergreen Candytuft, each spring will bring fair sheets of bloom, and all the year its green.

Since the dell will chiefly be a place of shade, here and there we may plant a few clumps of Lupin, blue and white, and between them each spring put a few bulbs of the Cape Hyacinth (*Hyacinthus candicans*); thus, in



FORGET-ME-NOTS IN ROUGH STONE STEPS



LUPINS IN THE MIXED FLOWER BORDER, THE CLIMBER ON THE FENCE IS *POLYGONUM BALDSCHUANICUM*

THE GARDEN DELL

August, when the Lupins have lost their chief attractiveness, the tall spires and white drooping, bell-like flowers of the Hyacinth shall rise above the fading leaves like a new Phoenix from the old ashes. For a ground covering, hiding the soil not only with evergreen leaves, but for a long time with yellow blossom, there is the St. John's Wort (*Hypericum calycinum*), that will thrive even round about the trunk of a forest tree. A still brighter carpet, but of leaves alone, may be had in a similar spot by planting the variegated *Veronica radicans*. This has beautiful small green and white leaves that lose neither their colour nor themselves. Or, for those who prefer green to variegated leaves, there is, of course, the green-leaved *Veronica (radicans)*. And is there not Ivy for those who cherish it? Any of these, together with Woodruff white and Woodruff blue, the broad-leaved Bell-flower (*Campanula latifolia*), the blue Siberian Columbine (*Aquilegia sylvestris*), Japanese Primrose, Lilies in variety—Orange Lily, Tiger Lily, Japanese Lily (*speciosum*), Scarlet Martagon Lily (*chalcedonicum*), and even the white Madonna Lily—to say nothing of all the flowers of spring, but chiefly Daffodils, Primroses, Violets, Wood Anemones, Apennine Anemones, Lenten Roses, Bluebells, and hardy Cyclamens. All should be grouped not singly, but in colonies, in the hollows between the little hills.

Such things as Foxgloves, Snapdragons, Opium Poppies, and Evening Primroses will seed themselves,

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when once established, and come up in all sorts of unlikely places, each helping to transform the dell into a garden fairyland. It is as well, perhaps, to define the path by an edging of rough stones, or some of the plants, so ubiquitous are they, will take possession of it. And to keep the stones good company, what better than the old fair and fragrant Musk ?

CHAPTER V

BEHIND THE TIMES

A packet of seed of something that is labelled *magnificum* or *grandiflorum* may cost sixpence more, but as a rule it is worth the money.

WHY is the average home garden planted with inferior kinds of plants, and the home gardener so dreadfully behind the times in his selections of flowers? That such a condition of affairs unfortunately prevails is patent to the discerning eye, and alas! it is disquieting to the discerning mind. It is all very well to blame the second-rate nurseryman, and perhaps the jobbing gardener who has a little nursery of his own, for supplying plants and flowers that, whatever may have been their merits a generation ago, are now hopelessly out of date and out-classed by new and improved sorts. But why leave the selection to him? Surely, if it is worth while spending a five-pound note on stocking one's garden, it is worth while also making a few preliminary inquiries as to the best kinds to grow. For in these days of keen competition, plants—even the best of plants—are cheap, and the editor of any one of the numerous gardening papers is always only too willing to give advice to his readers.

THE GARDEN AT HOME

I was told the other day, by one who has a bungalow there, of a state of affairs in a seaside village in Essex that would be laughable were it not so lamentable, and so characteristic of hundreds of other localities, especially in the suburbs of large towns, where the jobber flourishes. This Essex village shall be nameless, but it boasts a little local nursery, and the owner (who was not always a gardener) has won great fame in the district as a "budder." But, alas! he seems to bud only one variety of rose—namely, the old-fashioned pink and white Homère; consequently, in every garden throughout the length and breadth of the village, Homère and Homère alone flourishes, "proud monarch of all he surveys" (in the way of roses). How deplorable it is! I wonder that the roses in the great Colchester nurseries do not rise in protest, and lend their fragrance to the summer wind when it blows in the direction of this misguided village. Such a message would surely bring the residents to a right state of mind, so far as roses are concerned, and remind them of the countless and incomparable varieties now obtainable, against the glory of which Homère fades into insignificance.

But too often is the same tale told. The owner will not take the trouble to make a selection himself under expert guidance, so I suppose he must be ignorant of the wealth of kinds that nurserymen now have in stock. But "times change, and we change with them," so gradually, taught by the ever-increasing output

BEHIND THE TIMES

of gardening literature, amateurs will sooner or later come to realise that they are growing, as it were, the weeds that cluster on the outskirts of a vast realm of unsought flowers, instead of entering the wide-open gates and choosing for themselves among a galaxy of bloom. Lots and lots of little gardens are lovely now ; but, under a discerning gardener, how much lovelier might not they be ! Every year new flowers, many of them improvements on the old ones, throng the horizon of the flower world ; but how long a time they take to reach the home garden ! It is true that the modest gardener cannot always buy many new plants, since for a year after their first appearance they are expensive ; but in a season or two prices descend to the level of older and less meritorious kinds, and that is the time to buy. Or when plants are too expensive, why not buy seeds ? Often one can afford seeds of novelties when plants are too dear.

The pity of it is that so many who find pleasure in their gardens when they are full of plants of moderate worth might so easily find still greater delight if they replaced some of the most indifferent with the better kinds. Even nowadays, when rose shows are held in September as well as in July, and the rose garden is almost as lovely in autumn as in summer, one sees innumerable rose plots full of the old-world sorts that scarcely give a blossom after St. Swithin's. Certainly, when I have been able to show a fragrant bunch of September roses to

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admiring friends, I am met with the remark, "How wonderful for this time of year," though I try to impress on them that they are not wonderful in the least ; in fact, they are commonplace, if they only knew it. I have said so many times to my gardening friends and acquaintances that all they have to do is to dig a hole in the soil in November, mix in a little bone-meal or rotted manure, plant the right kinds of roses, make them firm, and cut them back in March, and they may have lovely blooms in all sorts of bewitching shades of colour from May-day to Michaelmas. And gradually I believe their gardens are losing the John Hoppers and Boules de Neige, and the beautiful Teas and Hybrid Teas that are never out of blossom are taking their places.

But it is not in the rose plot only that home gardens are behind the times. One sees house walls that are exposed to the sunshine from dawn until dusk smothered with Ivy and close-leaved creepers, and the little border at the foot of them a mass of London Pride, or some other ubiquitous plant that will thrive even better in the shade where little else will grow. It is enough sometimes to make the gods weep when one thinks of the many exquisite flowers and fruit that might be grown there—flowers and fruit, too, that can be grown nowhere else. Arches and arbours, against which languish derelict Gloire de Dijon, Crimson Rambler, or Souvenir de la Malmaison, are perhaps less common than they used to be since the advent of so many glorious climbing roses ; but

BEHIND THE TIMES

alas ! even here the inexpert gardeners follow one another like the proverbial flock of sheep, and now Dorothy Perkins flaunts her pink flower clusters everywhere, while such exquisite things as Alberic Barbier, Tea Rambler, Trier, Tausendschön, and many more make their appeal in vain—perhaps because catalogue descriptions of each and every rose make one green with envy, and one knows not which to choose ; perhaps because Dorothy Perkins satisfies the longings of the average home gardener.

Single-flowered Carnations, obviously grown from cheap and worthless seed, usurp the place of lovely, large-flowered, double sorts, perfect in form and wonderfully varied in colour, that better seed would give. “ Penny wise and pound foolish ” too often represents the method of the average amateur gardener. A packet of seed of something that is magnificum or grandiflorum or atro-rubens may cost sixpence more than the packet without these high falutin’ postscripts ; but, as a rule, it is well worth it. May I venture to hope that in these pages the inexpert will find that, while due consideration is given to the best of the old flowers—some of which are most worthily cherished—he will also be able to make the acquaintance of others that are finer though not so well known ? If it is true that “ successful gardening lies in doing the right thing at the right time,” it is no less true that the right kinds of flowers must also be grown.

CHAPTER VI

AN EXPLANATION OF TERMS

If I advise the reader to keep the atmosphere of his greenhouse sweet, will he be tempted to sugar it?

IF I were writing a book in some obscure patois, there might be an excuse for the inclusion of a chapter on the explanation of terms, but in a simple book on flowers and gardening surely it is unnecessary. I can imagine the reader thus soliloquising, but let him wait until he has heard me out. If I tell him to keep a "buoyant" atmosphere in his greenhouse, to "strike" a Chrysanthemum cutting, to "line" his frame, to take a "piping," to mind that his seedlings do not "damp off," to "stop" this plant, to "thin" that, to "put a little air on," to "close early," to "harbour sunheat," and use a score and one idioms dear to the heart of the trained gardener, will he be able to interpret them fully and realise their meaning? But for my own sake I feel that I am justified in giving an explanation of terms. These words are so expressive (especially when one understands their application!) that I am always liable to lapse; might I not thus bring down upon my innocent head the rightful wrath of the inexperienced home gardener? How dreadful, for



A BORDER OF HARDY FLOWERS



A BEAUTIFUL MAUVE RHODODENDRON CALLED CATAWBIENSE VIOLACEUM

AN EXPLANATION OF TERMS

example, if I told him to strike his Geranium cuttings, and he promptly struck—their heads off ! Or to take his Chrysanthemum buds, and he promptly took them—off ! How little satisfaction would he derive from my explanation that I did not mean he should actually strike the plants—with his walking-stick, but that he should cause them to form roots ! And again, that I did not intend he should take away the Chrysanthemum buds, but that he should leave those I had indicated and take others away ! I am afraid his consolation would bring him little joy. He would be strongly inclined to wonder why on earth didn't I say so !

If I tell the reader his vines will “ bleed,” will he not have doubts as to my sanity ? And if I advise him to keep the atmosphere of the greenhouse “ sweet,” will he be tempted to sugar it ? How is he to know that a Raspberry clump is a stool, while a Lily of the Valley root is a crown ? If I talk about pink “ pipings,” will he think involuntarily of “ piping times of peace,” and wonder why they should be pink ? Does “ greasy turfy loam ” sufficiently explain itself ? If I tell him to “ pot on ” his plants, will he wonder what is the difference between “ potting on ” and “ potting off,” or else have doubts as to what he is to pot them on ? If he learns that he can only grow some gorgeous exotic in a “ stove,” will he promptly put it in the gas stove ? Why shouldn't he ?—for if a stove means anything at all, it means a heating apparatus.

THE GARDEN AT HOME

If I tell him his Carnations are running to flower too soon and ought to be "stopped," will he not have good reason for asking why they do not walk, and so save him the trouble of stopping them? And how is he to define the difference between a thumb pot and a thimble pot? While it is conceivable that he knows what a pot is, how is he to arrive at the meaning of pan, for the gardener uses this word to describe two strange and entirely different things. When the text-books tell him to "prick out" seedlings, to take care that they do not get "drawn" or there will be "leggy" plants, to "plunge" flower-pots, to give these plants a "dewing" and those plants a "dusting," why, then, in despair the home gardener must surely cry "Enough," and allow that I have proved my case. So here's to an elucidation of some of the most remarkable gardening terms.

A Shift.—A plant needs "a shift" when it is cramped in its present flower-pot and requires a bigger one.

Ball.—If you are told to lift a plant with a "good ball," the instruction is to take it up so carefully that plenty of soil adheres to the roots.

Bleeding.—If the stem of a vine is cut in early spring when growth is commencing, a flow of sap ensues from the cut surface, and when this happens for some strange reason the vine "bleeds." Pruning should be completed before growth starts, then "bleeding" will not ensue. Beetroots also "bleed" if bruised or cut.

Breastwood is a curious term applied to the super-

AN EXPLANATION OF TERMS

fluous side shoots that form freely on fruit trees (especially those trained against walls) during the summer.

Brisk Heat.—One can scarcely imagine heat being brisk, a term that seems to associate itself with movement. However, a “brisk heat” has its significance for the trained gardener. I can scarcely translate it into a fixed temperature, but I should put it somewhere about 65° Fahr.

Callus.—Two or three weeks after a cutting is placed in suitable soil and temperature, a ring of tissue forms at its base, and is called a “callus.” From this roots subsequently issue.

Close Early.—“Early closing,” from the gardener’s point of view, alas! does not mean shortened working hours. It merely expresses in somewhat obscure English the work of closing the greenhouse ventilators in good time so that the temperature may rise without the aid of artificial heat. By “closing early” the grower “harbours sunheat.”

Crown.—The dormant root of Lily of the Valley is called a “crown.” As each “crown” is small, the roots are commonly sold in bundles of so many “crowns.”

Damp Down.—When told to “damp down” the glass-house, one is expected to syringe the walls and floor and paths to create a “growing” (i.e. a warm, moist) atmosphere.

Damping Off.—Little seedling plants, if crowded, are apt to be attacked, at the base of the stem, by a fungus.

THE GARDEN AT HOME

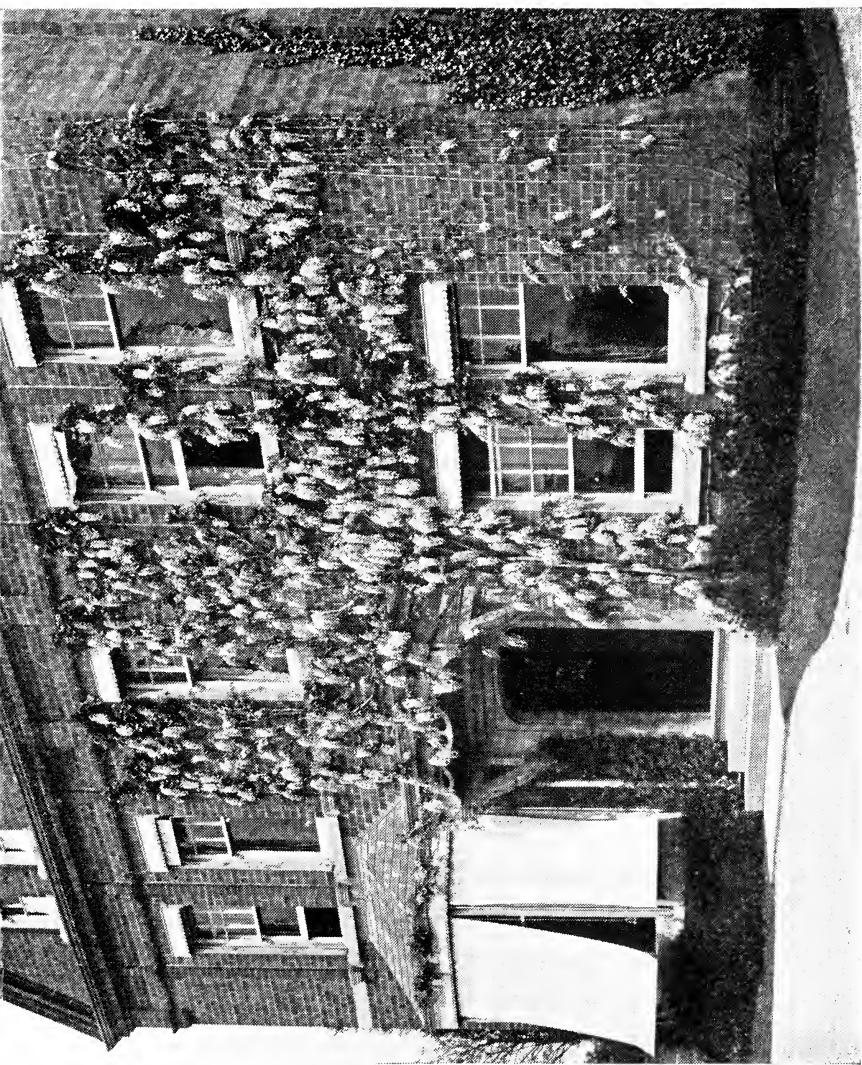
The stems decay and the seedlings collapse. One diseased seedling quickly affects another. This collapse is known as "damping off." It is encouraged by careless watering and by keeping the plants in too close and moist an atmosphere. I feel obliged to explain further that the atmosphere becomes "close" when the ventilators of the greenhouse are kept closed.

Dewing.—Dewing is a far pleasanter work than dusting (*which see*), and can scarcely be otherwise than refreshing to the plants, for it consists in directing a gentle spray of water over them through a syringe.

Drawn.—A "drawn" plant is not necessarily one that is pictured, but one that is so far from the glass roof that it becomes weak and attenuated, lanky and without vigour, like an overgrown schoolboy. Unfortunately, in contradistinction to the schoolboy, the "drawn" plant never becomes strong and sturdy in later life.

Dressing.—A "dressing" indicates a sprinkling of fertiliser on the soil. When soil or farmyard manure is used, "dressing" becomes metamorphosed into "top dressing."

Dusting.—One's recollection of a good "dusting" at school is very different from the interpretation placed upon the phrase by the gardener, although it may be just as unpleasant for the plant if one only knew it. For the stuff that is used to "dust" (i.e. sprinkle over) the plant is commonly soot or tobacco powder, or some other equally obnoxious material. But it is done in a good cause—that of killing insects or fungoid diseases.



THE CHINESE WISTARIA. ONE OF THE MOST ATTRACTIVE CLIMBING PLANTS



STEPS LEADING TO A LITTLE FORMAL GARDEN

AN EXPLANATION OF TERMS

Feeding.—To “ feed ” a plant, one gives it water in which manure or artificial fertiliser is dissolved.

Fine Soil.—That which is composed of very small particles ; it is obtained by sifting or passing through a sieve with a small mesh.

Foreright Shoot.—This term is chiefly, if not exclusively, applied in reference to fruit trees growing on walls (“ wall trees ”). It indicates those growths that develop at right angles to the wall. These are cut off in favour of others that can be more readily trained parallel to the wall surface.

Harden Off.—A plant is “ hardened off ” by being gradually inured to a cooler temperature until, in a few weeks, it is acclimatised to outdoor conditions.

Leggy.—A “ leggy ” plant is commonly a “ drawn ” plant (*which see*) grown old. It may, however, be one that has lost all its lower leaves, thus unblushingly exposing its stem.

Loam.—I once advised an amateur to use “ loam,” and he replied that he would follow my advice, but first he would like to ask, “ Pray what is loam ? ” I replied that my information was this:—Loam is turf in the peculiar condition that results after six months’ storing, when the grass has rotted and one is able easily to pull the turf into pieces “ about the size of a pigeon’s egg,” as the text books have it. Whereat he was duly grateful.

Occupant.—The “ occupant ” of a “ structure ” is, in less complex language, a plant.

THE GARDEN AT HOME

Operation.—This is a dreadful word to use in the garden, but one gets hardened, I suppose, for we all talk about doing this in one “operation,” or doing that in two (which sounds more dreadful still). But everything is an “operation” to the gardener, whether it is root-pruning fruit trees or potting seedlings. So, after all, it is not quite so bad as it sounds.

Pan.—There are many kinds of pots, but the gardener acknowledges only one—a flower pot. There are also many kinds of pans, but the gardener knows only two. Chief of these is the flower pan, which is of earthenware, wide and shallow and more useful for seed sowing than a flower pot, since it is easier to get the seedlings out when they are ready for “pricking out” or potting off. The other “pan” recognised by the gardener is found only by digging a hole in clayey land. When a hard, impenetrable mass of clay is reached, one has found the second “pan.”

Piping.—A “piping” is a kind of cutting, but whereas you cut off the base of a common or garden cutting, you merely pull out of its socket the shoot that is to be a piping. This term is most commonly used with reference to the increase of the Pink.

Plunge.—To “plunge” a plant you have to do nothing so dreadful as the word might be thought to imply, only to dig a hole in the ground and put the flower pot in it. The value of “plunging” is that the soil in the flower pot dries up less rapidly than when it is



ROSES AND CLEMATIS ON RUSTIC ARCH

AN EXPLANATION OF TERMS

exposed to the air and sunshine ; consequently, much labour in watering is avoided. “ Plunging ” is commonly done in ashes or fibre, not in the soil. Then worms and other undesirable creatures do not find their way into the flower pot. If “ plunging ” must be done in the soil, there should be a space between the bottom of the pot and the base of the hole.

Potting On.—You “ pot on ” a plant when you give it a shift into a larger flower pot ; but you—

Pot Off seedlings or cuttings that are growing thickly in boxes or pots, when each one is given a little flower pot to itself.

Prick Off.—To “ prick off ” a seedling is much easier than it sounds. You not only do not actually prick it, but use your utmost endeavours to avoid doing so, or the result is invariably the untimely death of the little plant. No ; “ pricking off ” consists merely in transferring seedling plants from one flower pot to another, from one box to another, or to the border out of doors, and in placing them at wider distances apart, so that they may have more space in which to “ grow on.”

Ripen Off.—When the foliage of a deciduous (leaf-losing) plant fades and falls, it needs less moisture at the roots, and, as a rule, a lower temperature. The gardener “ ripens it off ” by giving less water and more air.

Rose.—A “ rose,” fair reader, is, when you come to gardening terms, not only a flower, the queen of flowers, but a sort of cap, full of little holes, that you place on the

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spout of a watering can for the benefit of seedling plants and others of tender age, or those that are freshly potted, so that the soil shall not be disturbed unduly when water is given.

Running to Flower.—This peculiar condition is characteristic of Perpetual Flowering Carnations (among others) that produce flowering stems before they are expected, or at least before they are wanted. The consequence is that plants “running to flower” receive a decided snub in having their tops cut off. “*Festina lente*” should surely prove a good motto for plants that are given to “running to flower.”

Set.—When flowers fade and embryo fruits form, the tree is said to have “set” its fruits.

Shake Out.—In the spring of the year, plants that have been more or less dormant throughout the winter need repotting, and it is customary to remove or shake off the soil from about the roots so that they may be placed in flower pots of similar size to those in which they passed the winter. Thus, the plants are “shaken out.”

Start.—To “start” a plant, one places it in a warmer temperature, so that it may commence fresh growth.

Stool.—While stool is sometimes used in designation of a clump of any hardy plant, it is most generally employed in connection with Raspberry. A Raspberry stool means a Raspberry clump.

Stopping or Pinching.—To “stop” a plant you cut off (as in Fuchsia or Heliotrope), or pull out (as in Per-

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petual Carnation), the top of the shoot for the purpose of inducing other growths to form, so that a well-branched plant may develop.

Stove.—A “stove” is a hothouse where the minimum night temperature is usually 65° Fahr.

Strike.—To perform the apparently unkind work of “striking” a cutting, one has merely to induce it to form roots.

Structure.—A structure, from a gardening point of view, represents a glasshouse.

Sweet Atmosphere.—I am somewhat at a loss to define a “sweet” atmosphere, but I can affirm at least that there is nothing sugary about it. This particular kind of atmosphere is obtained when, and only when, plenty of fresh air is admitted to the greenhouse, when there is a little heat in the hot-water pipes, with perhaps a little moisture about the floor, walls, and staging.

Taking Buds.—As I have suggested, the curious thing about “taking” a bud is that you don’t take it at all, but leave it and take away others. The term is in common use by those who grow Chrysanthemums. “Taking a bud” really means removing all the little buds that cluster round the bud one wishes to preserve.

Thin Out.—By “thinning out” is understood the removal of the superfluous, whether it be of little plants, as in the case of seedlings sown thickly, or of growths in a tree or bush or plant.

THE GARDEN AT HOME

Vaporise.—To “vaporise” a house (i.e. a glasshouse) is to fumigate it with one of the many convenient preparations now to be obtained.

Wood.—“Wood” is a most expressive term in the gardener’s vocabulary, and means far more than the dictionary would lead one to believe. It means the shoots or growths of a plant. If a vine or any other vigorous plant is growing well it is making “good wood.” When told to “thin out” the “old wood,” one is expected to cut away the worn-out and derelict growths.

I have not exhausted the subject of my chapter. Would that I had, for, as one who has spent the best years of his youth at the potting bench or at the handle of the spade, I find myself constantly in danger of using gardening terms that I now realise have no meaning for the average home gardener. Having brought to notice a few of the many pitfalls that are open to trap the unwary writer, perhaps I shall be excused if sometimes I fall.

CHAPTER VII

TIDY PLANTS

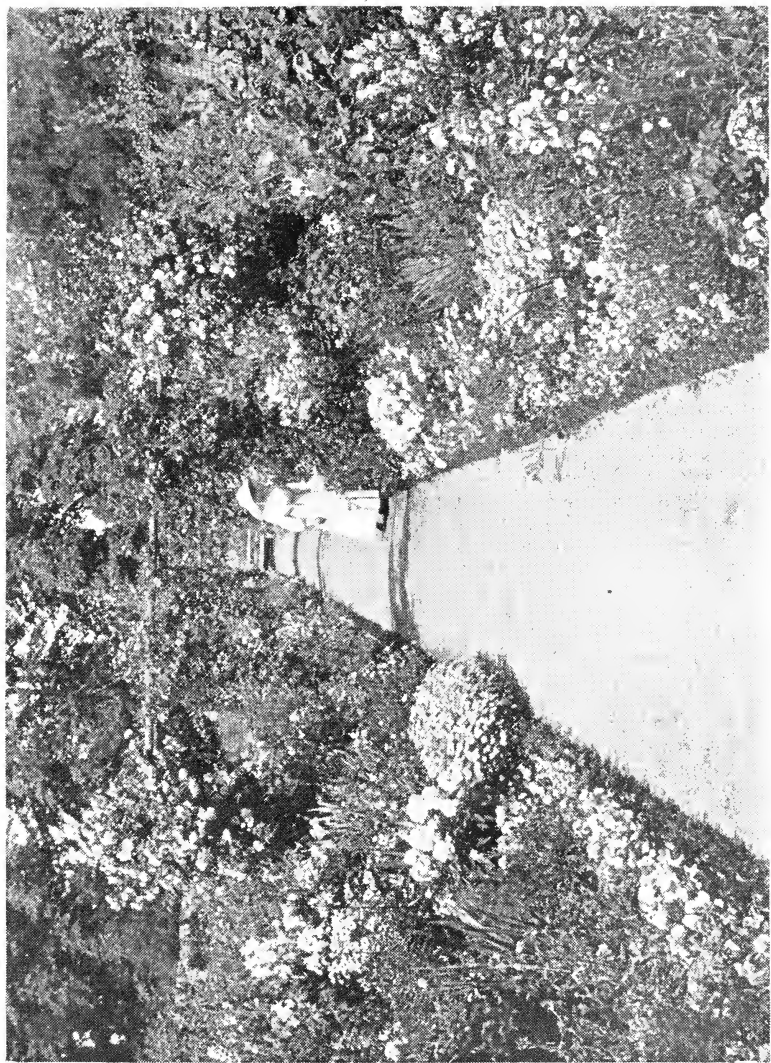
Do not all of us, despite our affection for naturally disposed flowers, really prefer to see the garden tidy ?

THE incorrigible untidiness of some otherwise fascinating hardy flowers must have caused much uneasiness and heart-burning to many sympathetic gardeners. How miserably some favourites fade and die when their blossoming season is over ! And what a blank they leave ! One of the biggest problems the flower-grower has to face is that of making good the blanks the June blossoms leave behind them. Never was there such a dilemma. By their gross untidiness when they have given of their best they ought, in all conscience, and by all the rules of gardening—for there is none that condones real untidiness—to be pulled up and thrown away. But their bewitching beauty prevents one from laying hands on them, and the evil remains. How to ameliorate, if not to eradicate, the evil is the question I have set myself to answer. If one must grow such lovely flowers as Lupins, Larkspurs, Oriental Poppies, and others that bloom in early summer—and of course one must—it will be more or less always with us.

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But in this chapter I want to emphasise the fact that there are many very charming plants that remain tidy after their blossoms are a thing of the past. Also I want to advise the reader who values the appearance of the border, yet who has little or no skilled labour at his disposal, and none too much time of his own to devote to the garden, to grow these "tidy" plants, as I have christened them. By interplanting them judiciously among the untidy ones the neatness of the hardy flower border may be greatly prolonged ; in fact, it may, without much trouble, be made to continue presentable throughout summer and autumn. And do not all of us, despite our affection for naturally disposed flowers, really much prefer to see the garden tidy ? I am sure everyone does, if my present interpretation of untidiness is allowed, for by a tidy plant I mean one of which the leaves keep green instead of dying and the stems persist instead of perishing.

The Flag Irises that bloom in June stand high in my list of tidy plants. One may have numerous groups of these without misgiving. Not only do they not detract from the charm of the border after they have flowered, but actually they add to it. Their grey-green leaves, that neither wither nor wilt in the sunshine, form an admirable foil to the gaudy flowers that come with the riot of summer bloom. And these masses of grey have a distinct charm of their own. Everyone knows the lovely Day Lilies—or, to give their botanical name, Hemero-



A RIOT OF SUMMER BLOOM



THE GIANT OX-EYE DAISY (CHRYSANTHEMUM MAXIMUM)

TIDY PLANTS

callis—that blossom in June, and are chiefly in shades of orange and yellow. Well, these, I think, deserve to be classed among the tidy plants, if only such leaves are cut off as may happen to turn yellow, and this is possible even with the best-behaved plants. One must not expect too much. The *Potentillas* form very neat tufts, and after the dead Strawberry-like blossoms are cut off they seem neater than ever. These I can recommend with the greatest confidence. The Burning Bush (*Dictamnus Fraxinella* and its white variety) also deserves inclusion, for the leaves retain their freshness and the clumps remain presentable for weeks and weeks after the flowers are over.

Many of the *Campanulas* or Bellflowers claim recognition as tidy plants. I am not sure which has the greatest merits ; but I think few, if any, excel *Campanula grandis* that makes bold tufts, each tuft composed of many separate plants, and throws up 2-feet-high stems smothered in large sky-blue blossoms in early summer. When the flower stalks are cut off the leafy tufts remain, fresh and attractive the summer and even the winter through. And how they spread ! The Peach-leaved Bellflower is quite different in its growth, but it deserves, I think, to be included, for, in addition to its fairly presentable appearance after the chief blossoming is over, it possesses the additional distinction of continuing in flower more or less throughout the summer, if the dead blooms are picked off. This is one of the plants of which the flower-

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ing stems should not be cut down ; the blooms, as they fade, should be picked off singly. The Giant Chimney Campanula, still grown in flower-pots in a greenhouse by most people, is a noble border plant that is quite hardy, and, I think, demands classification in my list. The seeds are sown in March, to provide plants that will blossom in July of the following year, and in August these are big enough to plant out in the border where they are to bloom. It is true that for the first season they have only leaves to show, but these are so large and lustrous and fresh, and combine to form such handsome plants, that I hope I have made out a good case for them.

The Meadow Sweet (*Spiræa filipendula*) has exquisite leafage, and would be well worth including among tidy plants even if it did not bloom at all. Even when the flowers have faded and the stems are cut down, the graceful, feathery foliage remains as fresh as ever. I cannot praise the delightful little *Heuchera sanguinea* too highly. Surely everyone knows its small, bright-red blossoms that are profusely produced in May ; they are among my earliest flower recollections. Until I began to take notes and compile a list of tidy plants, I had never realised to the full the charm of their neat, rounded, grey-green tufts of leaves. The old Japanese Stonecrop (*Sedum spectabile*), beloved of bees—and now out-classed by an improved variety called *atropurpureum*, just as tidy as the old sort—charms with its thick, grey leaves as much as by its pale, rose-coloured flower heads that

TIDY PLANTS

open in August and September. The Shasta Daisy or Summer Marguerite (*Chrysanthemum maximum*) is without doubt to be classed as a tidy plant, for if the flower stalks offend the eye when the big blossoms have faded it is a simple matter to cut them down, thus exposing to view the fresh green leaves beneath.

One of the very neatest of all plants is the Jacob's Ladder (*Polemonium Richardsoni* and *P. officinale*). The exquisite blue flowers come in high summer, and, having blossomed, leave perfect little clumps to keep them fresh in the gardener's memory. The Plantain Lilies (*Funkia*), that bear chiefly lavender coloured flowers in summer, are valued almost as much for their foliage as for their bloom, so it goes without saying that they must find a place in a list of tidy plants. The so-called Everlasting Peas (*Lathyrus latifolius*, and its white variety The Pearl) keep quite attractive until autumn, and a plant or two trained—or, rather, allowed to ramble—over a few rough sticks in the border is certainly most presentable long after the flowers are over.

The old French Lilac or Goat's Rue (*Galega*) is, if attended to in the matter of staking and tying, and trimmed occasionally, quite neat enough, I think, not to detract from the border show; and I am inclined, on the same conditions, to include *Achillea*, The Pearl, an additional reason being found in the fact that it continues to produce a few blossoms when summer is waning. The Golden Rods (*Solidago*), if nicely staked

THE GARDEN AT HOME

and tied, are always neat. It is true that they do not blossom until August and September, but even when the flowers are over the stems, crowned with seed pods, are not unattractive, and I always leave them alone. This little negligence, if one may so name it, is particularly well repaid in the case of the Canadian Golden Rod (*Solidago canadensis*), for the dead flowers are succeeded by lovely fluffy seed pods.

A pretty blue-flowered plant, dignified with several names, *Veronica virginica japonica*, is particularly neat ; it forms a little bush $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet high, and seems to take a pride in its upright and well-preserved, leafy stems. The old scarlet Catchfly (*Lychnis chalcedonica*) needs only to be carefully staked and trimmed when the blooms are over to ensure its inclusion in my somewhat limited list ; while *Salvia nemorosa*, a handsome Sage, that forms a fine, leafy tuft some $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet high, and crowns this with purple blossom in late summer, quite merits its place. I think, too, that one might include the broad-leaved *Statice (latifolia)*, for though its leaves are large and inclined to "flop," they remain green after the flower beauty is over, and this is an essential condition of entrée to my chapter on tidy plants. The *Pæony*, too, has claims to recognition, for its large, bold, leafage persists long after the gorgeous petals have fallen.

A very pretty and a very tidy little plant that one rarely sees is *Chrysanthemum Parthenium* fl. pl. It forms a neat tuft about 12 inches high, and the much-

TIDY PLANTS

divided, elegant leafage remains attractive long after the double white Daisy-like blossoms are past their best. While the ordinary herbaceous Lupin is quite out of the question as a subject for this chapter, the Tree Lupin, on the contrary, deserves inclusion. It is quite a tidy plant when its flowers are past. So, too, is the exquisite little Meadow Rue (*Thalictrum minus*), its neat, graceful greenery contrasting vividly in autumn with the withering stems of the other Meadow Rues.

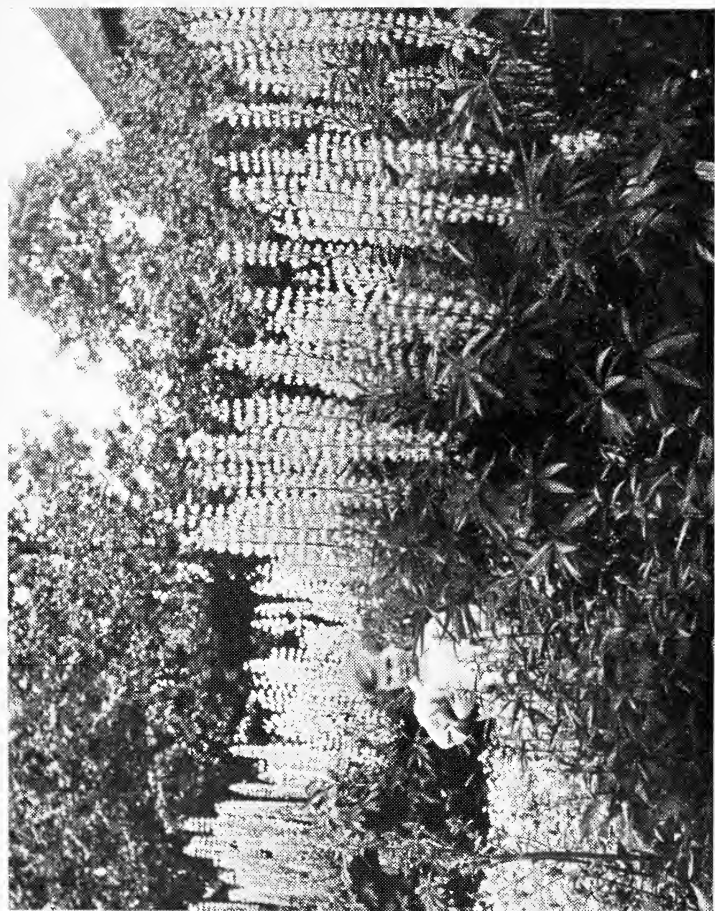
The best way to deal with hardy border plants that are notoriously untidy is to cut the stems (when they are only flowering stems) down to the ground as soon as flowering is past ; usually fresh basal growth is made, and a blank with green at the base of it is preferable to a mass of dead and dying leaves and stems. This answers well with Larkspur, Oriental Poppy, *Helenium*, *Spiræa*, Hollyhock, and *Pyrethrum*. The Larkspurs and *Pyrethrums* will then give a second crop of bloom in late summer.

CHAPTER VIII

VIEWS AND VISTAS

Many objects, in themselves prosaic, give pleasure when shown in the landscape as part of a view.

ENGROSSED in the working details of a garden, and giving close and continued attention to the individual plants and flowers, one is apt to become blind, if not to the charm of the landscape, at least to its possibilities. The coming of a visitor not enamoured of this or that plant may be the means of opening the eyes of the gardener to neglected opportunities and of inducing him to make the most of them. It is so much easier to become a skilled plant-grower than a successful gardener, and the one is not necessarily the counterpart of the other. To be learned in the art of growing prize-winning plants does not, in itself, qualify for successful garden-making. It is equally true that one cannot count one's gardening good unless his plants are well grown, but for the moment this point of view does not concern us. Too many of us, I think, are inclined to regard the garden as a place for the cultivation of plants and trees and flowers; entertaining and recreative though this may be, it scarcely interprets the true spirit of gardening, which



A GROUP OF LUPINS



A ROSE-EMBOWERED PATH

VIEWS AND VISTAS

primarily imposes the creation of a garden that shall, while in itself complete, yet form a natural part of its surroundings.

We are all alive to the fascination of a view. Do not we often go miles for the sake of views, and frequently spend holidays in search of them? Should not we then have a greater regard for the views in our own home garden, and, by careful scheming, endeavour either to create fresh ones or to make the most of those that exist already? So many objects, in themselves prosaic and even ugly, may not only pass muster but actually give pleasure when shown in the landscape as part of a view. Let the reader, having unpleasant objects in his garden, endeavour to mould them in the making of a view. As one may, by the skilled use of scissors, make two or three charming little pictures from a big plain one, so, too, by careful treatment of distinct parts of the garden may one utilise commonplace objects in the planning of a miniature masterpiece.

A little stone or cement-faced Lily pond is not necessarily an object of beauty, but it can be used to excellent advantage by the gardener. He has merely to build a low rockery round about it, planting this with a few of the many lovely, bright-faced flowers, preferably those of drooping habit, that are at his disposal, and how great a change comes o'er the scene! Tufts of golden Alyssum, of purple Aubrietia, of white

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Rock Cress and Snow in Summer, of rose-coloured Alpine Phlox and lovely purple, white, yellow and blue Tufted Pansies, will fling their flower tresses over the harsh coping and fall even to the water surface, there to be reflected with an added glory.

What opportunities even a garden seat offers for the creation of an exquisite miniature ! Paint it white, cover it with a rustic arch, draping this with a riot of pink clustering rose, or yellow rose and purple Clematis, throng the neighbouring beds with fragrant Musk and Mignonette, with Lavender and Pinks and China Roses, and the garden seat is no longer a mere resting-place for tired feet, but a garden home, fair and fragrant from within, fairer and still more fragrant from without.

Place a sundial on a large grass plot and it is a soulless thing ; raise it on a little green mound, forming the pivot of a wheel of brick-paved walks, each spoke stone-edged and flower-clustered, and how great a charm possesses it ! Fill the wheel spaces between the spokes with all that is fairest among summer flowers, with Ten-week Stocks, with Fleur-de-lys, with Lupines, Bergamot and Geum, with Sweet Williams and Bellflowers, Poppies and Pæonies, and there, if anywhere in a garden, shall you hear the fairies whisper as the breezes fragrant blow.

A plain, red-bricked house has few claims to beauty, yet " half revealed and half concealed " by the trembling twigs of Aspen or Silver Birch, or seen through the gaps

VIEWS AND VISTAS

between the dark foliaged boughs of Scotch Fir, it makes no vain appeal to the garden-lover. How crude a thing is a long brick wall, solid and stolid from one end to the other! Even if rightly planted, it still lacks real garden magic. But make an opening in it, or, if it is long enough, make two, either with door or gate or without, as may seem best, and how the prospect changes! In the mind's eye at once there rise visions of clambering Rose and clustering Clematis, luxuriant Woodbine and fine-leaved Vine draping the pillars of the doorway, drooping seductively from the arch, and hailing, with a fragrant Salve, every passer-by. And the glimpse of the garden beyond, what an aid it is to the creation of illusive distance! What opportunities it gives to the planter for the development of some charming little spot that shall greet the visitor as he passes through the walled gateway! Similarly, the meanest gate or door that opens on the garden needs only to be environed with tapestry of leaf and blossom, and no longer is it commonplace.

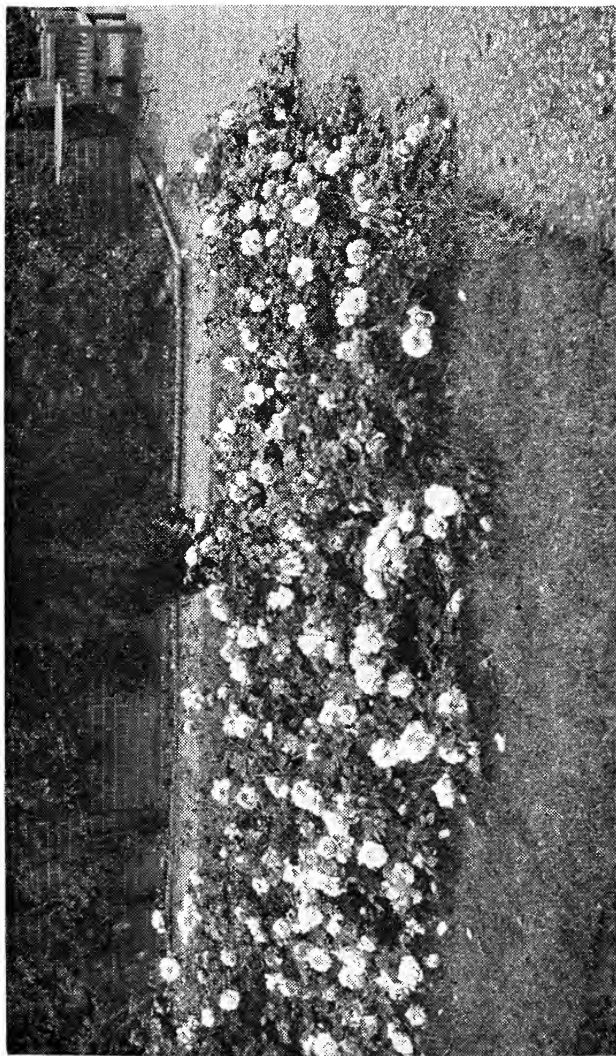
A short flight of stone steps may or may not be attractive; it depends upon whether they are stiff and flat and level, each one exactly like the other, or whether they are rough-surfaced and irregularly placed. In either case they are assured of greater appeal if their margins are suitably draped. The mason's steps I would verge with Pinks and Picotees, Ivy-leaved Geraniums, or with Sweet Alyssum and Snapdragons and spreading

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Lobelia. A planting of Arabis and Aubrietia and alpine Pink and Saxifrage should grace the margin of the rougher steps, and if there are chinks between the stones what better to fill them with than the little Violet Cress, that blossoms a few weeks after seed is sown, or Lemon Thyme, that scents the air when trodden ?

Do we realise sufficiently the charm and picturesqueness of common forest trees, of which many gardens possess at least one or two ? A rustic garden-seat, so fashioned as to encircle the trunk, forms an ideal resting-place in welcome shade ; how tempting to linger there for a few moments, even in earliest spring, if the grass is strewn with the golden, green-frilled flowers of the Winter Aconite or the incomparable Snowdrop, and later with Crocuses in yellow, white, and blue ! How delightful so to plan that the rose borders or flower borders or herb garden lead to the forest tree, that in high summer the sequestered seat may lure us to rest awhile, soothed by the seductive sweets of the scented flowers !

A thickly planted shrubbery, a close mass of leafy stems (how common, alas ! it is in the home garden !) has neither grace nor interest, yet clear a way for the passage of a winding walk, and how inimitable and illimitable are the opportunities disclosed to the seeing gardener ! The simple clearing of the walk itself will extend the gardener's knowledge of the plants he possesses, since it will permit him to make friends with those that previously were only acquaintances. How



ROSE GARDENIA (CREAM YELLOW) TRAILING ALONG THE GROUND



THE WATER-LILY POOL. BUSHES OF BERBERIS COVER THE BANK

VIEWS AND VISTAS

easy, after the path is made, to form little inlets here and there, and to fill them with special soil for the sake of some of the exquisite shade-loving plants that need it, the Wood Lilies or Trilliums, some of the true Lilies, hardy Ferns, and others. With such helps as these, and by scattering Foxglove, Poppy, and Evening Primrose seed, by planting Bluebells, Primroses, and broad-leaved Bellflowers, and finally by sowing the walk in grass, or flagging it with stones, there shall arise a garden of intense interest the seasons round, and one that has infinite variety. There are still other ways in which most gardens can be given an added charm, and my suggestions may put the home gardener on the alert so that opportunities shall not be neglected. Any object that is in itself unattractive should have every consideration before it is removed, every characteristic studied before it is condemned.

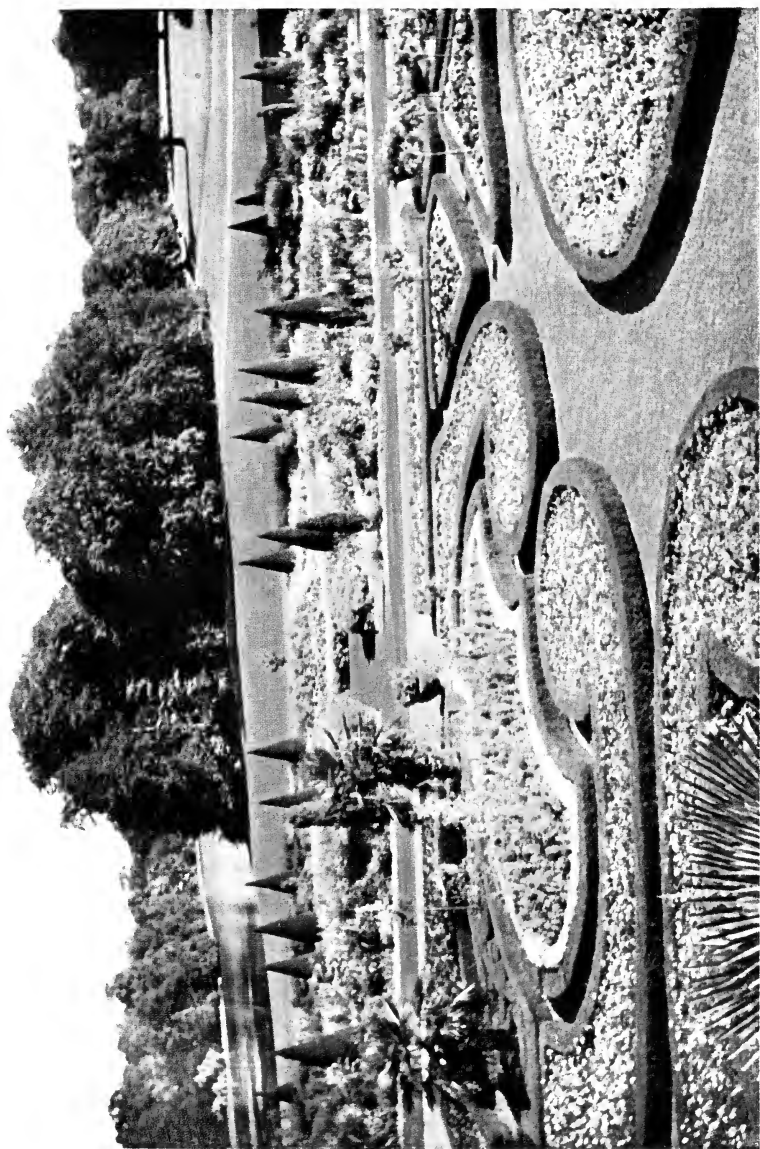
CHAPTER IX

A PLEA FOR THE RED GERANIUM

They are cheerful—thank Heaven!—and there's a smile for you every time you pass them by.

I HOPE I shall not be charged with inconsistency if I preface my plea for the red Geranium and its usual associates by saying that I grow few or none of those I am about to recommend. I am satisfied that lack of space and not lack of inclination is the real reason. Indeed, there is nothing to be ashamed of in growing the usual "bedding plants." It does not follow that because they were once misused they are in themselves to be treated with contempt. So good a gardener as Miss Jekyll confesses to a liking for this homely flower. When visitors "have expressed surprise at my having 'those horrid old bedding plants' in my garden, it seemed quite a new view when I pointed out that bedding plants were only passive agents in their own misuse, and that a Geranium was a Geranium long before it was a bedding plant."

I am led to include the present chapter owing to the fact that, at the time of writing, I have just returned from a holiday. During my absence the weather was



THE FORMAL GARDEN AT CHEVENING

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ideal (for holiday-making), but alas! it was not propitious for the lone garden. I was prepared to find the hardy flower border somewhat the worse for the gardener's absence, but I scarcely expected to be confronted with Hollyhocks almost bare of leaf as well as void of blossom, Spiræas frizzled up, Sweet Peas a mass of withered leaves and ripening seed pods, Phloxes full of fading flowers, Nasturtiums over-growing everything within their ubiquitous reach, Zinnias and Coreopsis fighting for breathing space, and even the little white Alyssum encroaching on the grass and spoiling the verges.

But this is what greeted me after two or three weeks' absence in August. Yet in my neighbour's garden, where "bedding out" is in greater vogue than hardy flower growing, I found the pattern beds and borders just as gay and almost as neat as when I went away, notwithstanding their gardener's absence. I confess that for the moment I felt aggrieved and wished that I too had filled my ground with red Geraniums, blue Lobelias, a few Begonias and Golden Feather, for such as these can be relied upon to behave themselves during the owner's absence. The flowers are as bright as ever, and the leaves are just as green. I often wonder whether the remarkable neatness of "bedding out" is not sufficient compensation for its monotony, for I am sure that neatness in any garden is essential to its full enjoyment.

THE GARDEN AT HOME

Who can find real pleasure in a border where the weak and the strong rub shoulders, where fresh bloom and fading blossom stand cheek by jowl, and the charm of the one is half hidden by the unattractiveness of the other? I unfortunately cannot, and in a mixed border in a small garden it is scarcely possible to avoid such incongruous contrasts. The available labour does not allow of one plant being pulled up and another (grown in the reserve border) planted in its place to ensure a succession of bloom. Plant as skilfully as one may, either there is an indifferent, even a meagre display throughout the flower season or a riot of bloom at one time and a blank at another. I am not sure which is the more unsatisfactory. With the timely help of an out-of-the-way border, where Chrysanthemums and Michaelmas Daisies await the fading of the summer flowers to be transferred to the limelight, and Pentstemons, Zinnias, Marigolds, Asters, and Tiger Lilies growing in flower-pots in some half shady corner, await their "call," transformations can be effected.

It is true that one can replace the flowers of spring, the Daffodils and Tulips and Leopard's Bane with summer bloom, for what is simpler than to scatter a few seeds of annuals round about them, the latter to progress and thrive while the former fade and languish? But with what are we to replace the Lupins and Oriental Poppies, Delphiniums and Campanulas, Spiræas and Pyrethrums, that are the glory of the garden in June? They must

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inevitably remain and daily distress us with their unattractiveness.

Yet, though they must remain, why should not their unattractiveness be hidden ?

Are we to stand on ceremony, and not hide their nakedness with glowing colour merely because the Mrs. Grundy of gardens looks askance at the employment of bedding plants ? Bedding plants, forsooth ! Are there none others than Geranium and Calceolaria and Lobelia ? Rather would I ask, are not these the least attractive amongst them ? Is not Lantana, of musky leaf and orange-red blossom, a bedding plant ? Yet what more delightful to put out in early June among the fading Lupins and withering Poppies ? And why not hide with the giant bronze-green leaves of the Castor Oil plant (*Ricinus*) the shrivelling leaves and withering stems of the once exquisite blue spires of Larkspur ? Should we not prefer to remember these as they were in the height of their unparalleled charm, and forget them in admiration of the finely chiselled *Ricinus* ? And the tuberous Begonia and semperflorens Begonia, Abutilon and ornamental-leaved Geranium, Ageratum, and Fuchsia—shall we not use them all to the same advantage and for a double purpose, that they may not only fill inevitable blanks in the borders, but enable us to retain delightful memories of gorgeous flowers in their gorgeous prime ? Then may we welcome them again in the new year with nothing but pleasant memories of their inimitable loveli-

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ness, marred by no lingering thoughts of the desolation that accompanied their dying.

I have nothing but admiration for the unique scarlet of the Geranium, the gaudy yellow of the Calceolaria, the brilliant blue of the Lobelia, but I think their proper place is in little groups towards the front of the mixed flower border, to gladden the ground with blossom and to hide the nakedness of those that have gone before. Does not the free-growing Lobelia make an admirable carpet for roses, and the neat growing kind an excellent margin to the rose beds, especially if one mixes with it the dwarf white Alyssum, for both last in bloom from June until October ?

My chief objection to the use of low-growing bedding plants in close masses of one kind is their changelessness, their immutability. Before they are put out one knows exactly what the result will be, barring, of course, some unusual playfulness on the part of the clerk of the weather. One knows exactly how high they will grow, how many bloom bunches they will bear, what size they will be, when they will open, and when they will close. And all those long days from June to October, all day and every day, week in and week out, they are the same—unvarying, constantly, almost exasperatingly gay.

But they are cheerful—thank Heaven!—and there's a smile for you every time you pass them by, whether it rains or whether it shines—though, quite naturally, the sunshine suits them best. Should we then not thank

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the gods that there are such flowers to be had, and, expressing our thanks in the best possible way, plant them and use them naturally and rationally, not excessively and vulgarly? Then we shall never grow tired of the red-coated Geranium and those cheerful companions that are commonly associated with it.

CHAPTER X

THE LITTLE FORMAL GARDEN

So fashion it that imagination, running riot, may invest its stone-paved paths and grass-grown alleys with the witchery of dreams.

I THINK every garden should possess its little formal pleasaunce, for it is so easy to invest it with the atmosphere of romance, to give it at once an old-world charm. "Natural gardens" are the vogue nowadays, and by this term is implied the planting of wide borders filled with luxuriant plants, grouped in big masses, so that a brilliant effect may be obtained. But however successful they may prove as a flower show, or how perfect a feature of the landscape, they are lacking in intimate appeal. Unless there is some pronounced formality about a garden it is not easy to endow it with a sense of repose and restfulness, to make of it a thing apart from the world outside and, so to fashion it, that imagination, running riot, may invest its stone-paved paths and grass-grown alleys with the witchery of dreams. And how little help it needs—a sundial, an old stone seat, a screen all creeper-covered, a gateway twined with flower and leaf, an arbour thronged with vine. Such as these, if rightly and

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with care disposed, may be the means of transforming the most prosaic plot into a garden haunting and full of the music of flowers.

One's ideas of a formal garden should not, as perhaps unconsciously they do, bring to mind a parterre gay with myriads of bedding plants, crossed and re-crossed with stiff, straight box-edged paths, and, to our vexation, recalling, until we know them well by heart, Pope's satiric lines :—

“ No pleasing intricacies intervene,
No artful wildness to perplex the scene ;
Grove nods at grove, each alley has a brother,
And half the platform just reflects the other.”

Because this was once all that formal gardening connoted, shall we still cherish the fallacy that this is all it can mean to us to-day now that we are able to people it with fresh, free-growing flowers in such wonderful variety? Rather let us materialise visions of flagged paths, winding here and wending there, their margins of stone and little cascades of tumbling blossom, the crevices between the stones filled with tiny plants, fragrant of leaf and sweet of bloom. And to mark the passing hours, a sundial centred on neat grass plot, reminding us that “ ’tis always morning somewhere in the world.”

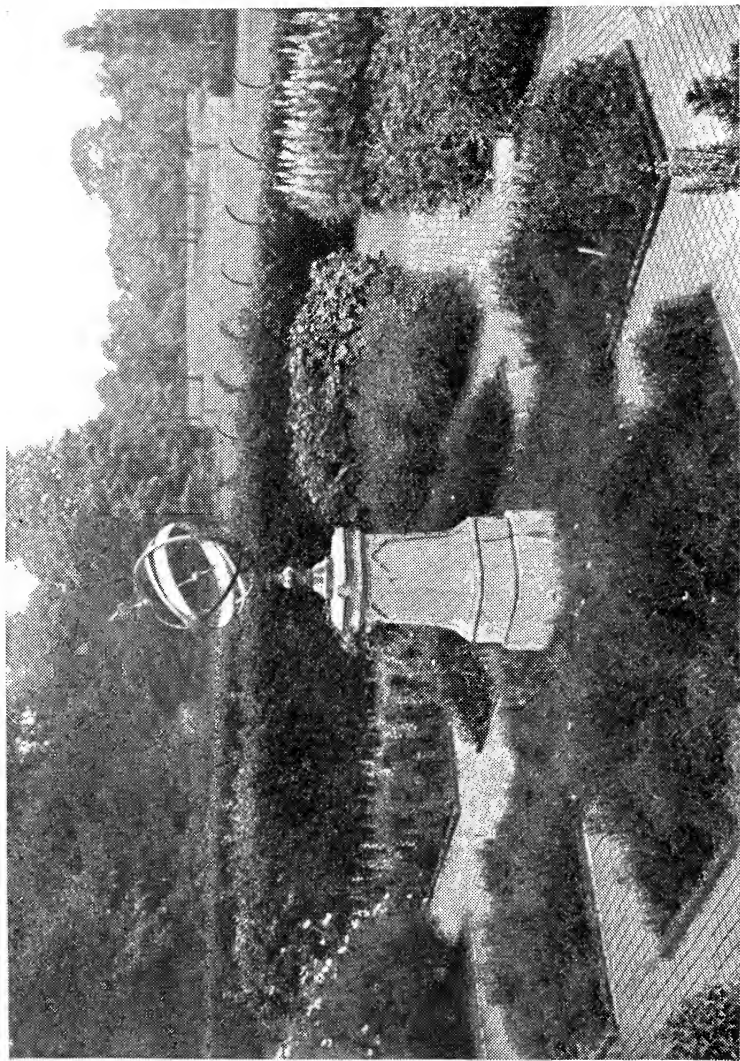
We must girdle the garden with roses, span the paths with arches of Clematis, and in one corner place an arbour and smother it with Traveller's Joy. This is the

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sort of formal garden that is easily and cheaply made, since the simpler it is the better—a garden that looks old while it is yet new, whose flowers of the present whisper secrets of the romantic past, where, “as pensive evening deepens into night” memories of youth and all the dreams of youth throng in upon us.

One may make of such a garden as this what fancy most suggests, and that is its chief enchantment. Has one spent fleeting sunshiny days among the Italian lakes, where the grey Olives whisper and the blue Gum grows, and the seductive scents of exotics fill the air; where Oleander, Syrian Mallow, and Pot Herbs in old red vases adorn the flagged paths; where clustering Rose and Clematis, hiding the poles that pillar them, fling their luxuriant shoots to the wind and gambol in every breeze that blows? Where plants are not content to grow in the beds alone, but must needs o’erstep the margin and trespass on the paths, for there are no flower warnings there; where climbers caress each other with tresses of fair and fragrant bloom, and the little creeping plants play hide-and-seek among each other’s stones? Then in fancy picture and in flower-loves paint the garden of your dreams. There may lack a little colour in the sky, a little lustre in the leaves, but the plants will be prodigal of bloom and their fragrance just as sweet. And what sunshine is lacking will be more than atoned for by the gardener’s delight.

While winter passed to spring has one spent joyous



A LITTLE FORMAL GARDEN



JAPANESE STONE LANTERN AND ROSE-COVERED PERGOLA

THE LITTLE FORMAL GARDEN

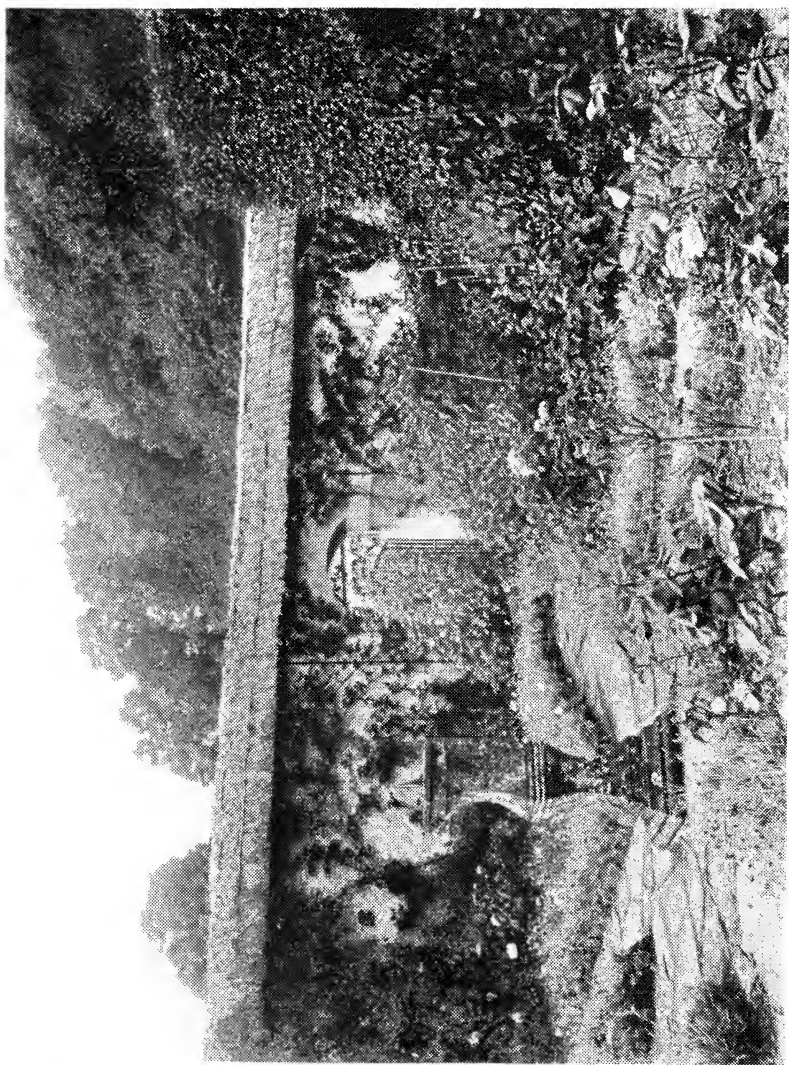
days on the French Riviera and marvelled at the riot of colour that everywhere greets the gardener's eye, and experienced bewilderment that so much flower brilliancy should be gathered together for his entrancement. Then in the formal garden at home it is reproduced, if the planter chooses flowers of the most gorgeous hues that his catalogue describes and disposes them in masses.

Should memories linger of an old-time garden around an old-world house, where the borders are of Lad's Love and Rosemary, Lavender and China Roses, Balm and Bergamot, how easy to adapt the little formal garden so that *in esse* the flowers of memory rise. Or one might people it with plants and flowers, the gifts of gardening friends, or make of it a garden of places in which each plant revives memories of lightsome days spent north, south, east, or west, many of them holidays when all was well and all the world was fair. One might have the little garden thoroughly up-to-date, and in autumn fill it with formal planting of gaudy, spring-blooming bulbs; and in May prepare it for another show with summer flowers, with annuals or with bedding plants. One might have it in the shade and fill it with Ferns and Foxgloves, Lilies and Lupins, Day Lilies and Columbines, Christmas Roses and Snowdrops, Anemones and Bellflowers, which, if they do not dislike the sunshine, at least are happy in the shade. Or one might fill the garden with flowers of one colour or even of one kind—for instance, with Irises.

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However one may elect to plant it, this little garden is bound to give unalloyed delight. Every flower-grower is something of a garden architect, and is gratified on seeing worked out on the ground that which he has put on paper. Nowhere does a design show to better advantage than in a little formal garden; and so, from the very first, it touches a soft spot in the owner's heart—that of self-adulation. And really there is much scope for the exercise of skill in design in planning a little formal garden; and the more pleasing the design the greater and longer lived will be the owner's pleasure. There should be plenty of pathways intersecting small flowerbeds, so that it may be possible to attend to any and every plant without difficulty, for it may happen that each one has a history, though recorded only in the gardener's thoughts.

A few of the many plants suitable for such a garden are all the favourite bulbs of spring, and especially the smaller sorts, such as Grape Hyacinth (*Muscari*), Apennine Windflower, Greek Windflower, Hepatica, Squill, Glory of the Snow, together with Crocuses and Snowdrops. Of summer flowers, annuals such as Love-in-a-Mist, Mignonette, Candytuft, Shirley Poppies, the lovely orange flowered *Nemesia*, and the golden-blossomed Namaqualand Daisy (*Dimorphotheca*) should be chosen. Of perennials the Scarlet Bergamot (*Monarda didyma*), the old red Geum, Oriental Poppies, Flag Irises, Peach-leaved Bellflower, the golden *Helenium*, lilac-blue Scabious,



"HAUNTING AND FULL OF THE MUSIC OF FLOWERS"



STONE STEPS BORDERED BY FLOWERING SHRUBS

THE LITTLE FORMAL GARDEN

and Summer Marguerite, or Shasta Daisy. Among the biennials, those raised from seed sown the summer previous to that in which flowers are wanted, one must of course choose Wallflowers, Foxgloves, Sweet Williams, and Canterbury Bells—all delightful summer blossoms. For autumn there should be Japanese Anemones and tall, scarlet Lobelias, outdoor Chrysanthemums, a few Torch Lilies or Red-hot Pokers, Asters and Marguerite Carnations, Pentstemons, and Coreopsis grandiflora, the golden Tickseed. Among summer and autumn bulbs, we cannot omit the Spanish and English Irises, Gladioli and Montbretias.

Once the garden is made there will be little difficulty about the choice of plants, especially if the margins are first planted with a few attractive little tufts of drooping and creeping plants. At once the garden assumes a *négligé* air that, in association with neat, flagged paths and a formal design, can never degenerate into untidiness. One might select, for instance, some of the low-growing Bellflowers, *Campanula carpatica* and variety *alba*, portenschlagiana, an exquisite little blue-flowered plant, the tufted Saxifrages, especially that most beautiful white sort called Wallacei, Pinks in abundance, and Carnations falling over the border margins, with, of course, such favourites as Rock Cress (*Aubrietia*), *Cerastium*, London Pride, Musk, and others. It is well worth while to raise the beds a little, and to support them with a low brick or stone wall built "dry"; that is to

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say, using soil instead of mortar. One may fill the chinks with Wallflowers, Mullein (*Verbascum*), Foxglove, Pinks, etc., and many others will find roothold there unbidden, for, to quote an old Spanish proverb, "More grows in the garden than the gardener has sown."

CHAPTER XI

LEAF GAIETY

Who shall portray the beauty of the Maidenhair tree when she dons a frail cloak of pale gold, shrouding her incomparable green ?

ONE of the most valued attributes of a carefully planted garden, perhaps its greatest charm, is that it is never without interest, even in the so-called dull months of the year. Those who have fallen under the spell of summer bloom are rarely content to wait until summer comes again for the opening of fresh flower treasures.

So, in planting the home garden, let us arrange the trees and shrubs and border flowers that there shall be something budding or blossoming even when casual gardeners are bewailing the wind and bemoaning the weather, and warming their hearts with catalogue pictures of summer bloom as they warm their toes at the winter fire. It is a simple matter, and needs merely a right selection of plants at the outset. The full enjoyment of the garden in winter entails a just appreciation of the charm of leaves as well as a love of flowers, but this, I am sure, will present no difficulty to the enlightened gardener. As time passes he will find beauty even in

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the trunks of trees, though he may not realise until he becomes interested how greatly one differs from another, —how one is grey, another green, how one is smooth, another furrowed, and how the tints change as the seasons pass.

In late autumn, when the first frosts have marred the beauty of the flowers, the glory of the leaves impresses one. What a wonderful death is theirs ! In dying they add a fresh luxury of colour to the garden that gave them birth. It is true that in the home garden, circumscribed in extent and limited in scope, there can be no such picture as Nature paints on the hills and in the valleys of the country-side when autumn has laid flaming torch to the woodland and lit the fires of the waning year.

There, as “autumn’s fire burns slowly along the woods,” green glows to yellow or flames to gold, brown burns to red and red to scarlet, and a tapestry, inimitable in design, incomparable in display, grows wondrously beneath the inscrutable working of Nature and her seasons. But within the garden boundaries one may work, if not so gorgeously, at least with good effect, for there are several small trees or shrubs that give exquisite autumn colouring. The Red Oak (*Quercus ruber*) is not quite so brilliant as some, but its red-brown leaves, when lit by the October sunshine, yield pride of gaiety to few. This is a most satisfactory kind of Oak for the small garden, for none grows more quickly.

Two other Oaks that fade most brilliantly are *Quercus*



HARDY FLOWER BORDER AND GARDEN GATEWAY

LEAF GAIETY

coccinea and its variety splendens, of which the leaves become almost scarlet. Those of *Quercus heterophylla* provide more varied if not such brilliant colouring, for they show both red and yellow. And the Chestnut—what an exquisite picture it is when the foliage loses its green in one vast flush of yellow! It is among the earliest of all to change. The Iron Tree (*Parrotia persica*) is not commonly met with, yet it is an admirable little tree for the home garden, and in autumn shows a lovely leaf tapestry of bronze and brown and rose.

But I know of none quite so wonderful when October falls as the Plum-leaved Cockspur Thorn, dignified by the consequential botanical name of *Crataegus Crus-Galli prunifolia*, though anglicised it sounds less formidable. Never have I seen so many rare and precious tints compassed by the branches of one small tree; there are red and brown and bronze, yellow and green, and other shades so nice as to defy description, and all commingle in the leaves of an almost unknown Thorn. It was a dim October day when I made its acquaintance, and though the gloom was lit by the flames of a multitude of dying leaves, not one of them held high so bright a torch as this.

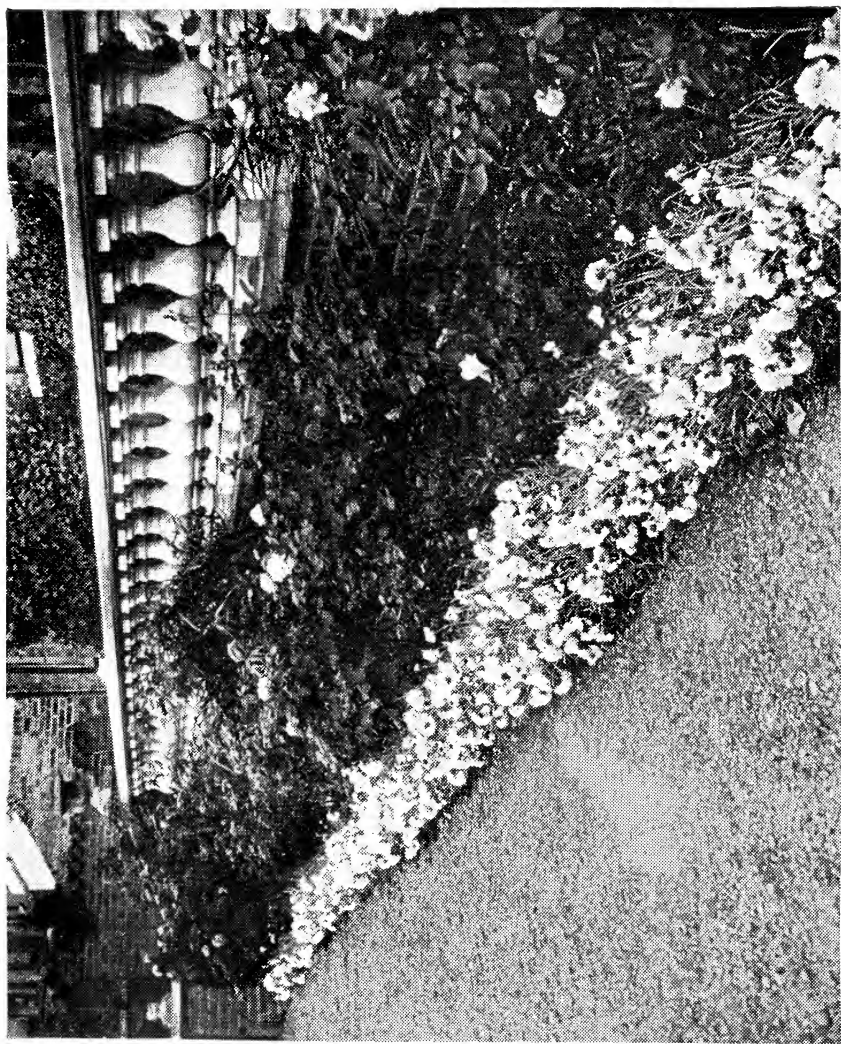
Who with pen for paint brush shall faithfully portray the beauty of the Maidenhair Tree (*Ginkgo biloba*) when, at autumn's bidding, she dons a frail cloak of pale gold, shrouding as with a gilt mantle her incomparable green? The June Berry (*Amelanchier canadensis*), that

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charms in spring with its profusion of white blossom, delights no less, when summer is spent, with its coat of red and brown.

Among the Maples there are enough and to spare of shrubs of which the leaves die in such colours and shades of colour as stain the western clouds when the sun sets ; for instance, *Ginnala*, *saccharinum*, *dasycarpum*, and the varieties of *palmatum*. The Barberries are a host in themselves, but the autumn tints of the common Barberry (*vulgaris*) and *Thunbergi* are not surpassed by others of their kind. In its own inimitable colouring of leaf and fruit, the prosaic *Mahonia* makes many friends who found no beauty in its yellow flowers. The Sumachs are a curious race of shrubs, comprising one (*Rhus Toxicodendron*) with leaves that are poisonous, and should not be handled unless with gloved hands, at least one with most ornamental, fluffy fruits (*Rhus Cotinus*), and another with most fascinating autumn tints (*Rhus cotinoides*). The latter forms a shrub some 6 feet high or so, and in coat of green it is not conspicuous, but with the Hunter's Moon " rising in clouded majesty," the stems are clothed in mosaic of multi-coloured leaves.

The Witch Hazels (*Hamamelis*), whose little yellow flower lamps twinkle through the shrubbery in spring, as though lighting the way for the slow-waking flowers, glow like good red wine when their leaves are fading and about to fall. What exquisite tenderness of tint there is in the deciduous Cypress, when the soft silkiness of its



AN EDGING OF MRS. SINKINS PINK



A GROUP OF HARDY FLOWERS SHOWING THE GOAT'S RUE
(GALEGA) AND OTHERS

LEAF GAIETY

summer green wanes and gives way to russet ! Plant it by the water-side, where, above all places, it loves best to be, that, reflected on the water's surface, it may awaken to fresh life the sad grey of the garden pool. And to keep it company, group the Cedar from Japan (*Cryptomeria japonica*), green beneath the summer sun, red-brown when autumn falls.

Among plants that climb or cling are many of surpassing charm of leaf in the fall of the year, and none perhaps excels in splendour the old, old *Ampelopsis Veitchi*, but some have bolder claims to recognition, for instance, the true Virginian Creeper (*Vitis quinquefolia*) and *Vitis Coignetiae*. The latter is an especially rampant climber with large leaves that take on most glorious autumn tints.

Though leaf gaiety is found chiefly in such as are hastening to die, others bring chief joy while in full fresh life. Some are as silver, others as gold, some are gold and silver too. Among the yellow or golden-leaved shrubs are the golden cut-leaved Elder, the yellow-leaved Nut and Mock Orange, while among trees of this distinction none surpasses the golden Elm called Louis van Houtte. Among shrubs with silvery leafage *Elaeagnus argentea* stands high in the planter's estimation, and *Atriplex Halimus* may also claim inclusion. There are many in which gold and white and green commingle, and a few of the best are Spaeth's Dogwood (*Cornus alba Spaethi*) ; several Ivies—e.g. *aurea elegantissima* and

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flavescens ; the Japanese *Euonymus* called aureus, and the golden Privet. Chief of those in which silver and cream and green are associated are *Euonymus*, notably the low, creeping *radicans* Silver Queen ; *Ivies* *Crippsi* and *Silver Queen* ; *Hollies* *regina* and *medio picta* ; and the variegated Siberian Dogwood (*Cornus alba sibirica variegata*).

Among trees and shrubs with purplish leaves the purple Beech of course ranks high, together with the popular *Prunus* *Pissardi*, the purple-leaved Nut, and a few of the Maples, notably *Acer palmatum atropurpureum*.

CHAPTER XII

UNSPOILT FLOWERS

A plant is not seen at its best when the balance between leaves and blossoms has been disturbed.

THERE is a tendency nowadays to exaggerate the value of flowers and to depreciate the charm of leaves. This is encouraged by the efforts of the worker among the flowers—the skilled florist—who is liable to sacrifice all sorts of characteristics, if by doing so he is thereby enabled to provide a plant with larger or more richly coloured blossoms. Excluding those plants of which the blooms are inconspicuous and the leaves their only claim on the gardener's consideration, we may take almost any plant we like, and, comparing it with the wilding from which it has developed, shall find that its flowers have an exaggerated value. They are not in just proportion to its leaves. While in one way this stands self-condemned as an artificial evolution, regarded from another point of view, the outlook of most plant growers, it is only natural, for it is but human to love flowers with a greater love than leaves.

Not only have the florists encouraged this, they have taught us to believe that a plant is only worth growing for the sake of its blossoms. Yet those who cherish grace

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of form and outline must surely come to the conclusion that a plant is not seen at its best when the balance between leaves and blossoms has been disturbed. A plant of which the flowers have been "improving" for generations, while during the same period its leaves, its manner of growth, its natural grace have, if not depreciated, at least been at a standstill—such a plant does not compare in natural elegance with the commonest of those that grow wild in the hedgerow.

Compare for one moment the exquisite grace of the wild Hemlock, a plant in which leaves and flowers are in just proportion, and each specimen in itself is all that a plant should be. Compare this with the stunted growth, the disproportionate flower bunches, the unnatural appearance of, say, the Zonal Geranium, the bedding Cockscomb, the florist's Aster, and others. They are "showy," they make a "blaze of colour," they delight one's atrophied sense of the beautiful, they—but I might enumerate many ways in which they make a false appeal, an appeal, alas! that finds response in our dulled perceptions, our wrongly directed taste. Yet they fail altogether to bring to the gardener's mind the sense of repose that is characteristic of the garden built with natural flowers.

All this by way of text to the sermon I would preach. I have to justify my theme: hence this censure of all in the garden that is gaudy without grace, that is brilliant without appeal. I am not so bigoted as to condemn the florist, for does he not work in the

UNSPOILT FLOWERS

direction of popular clamour? The gardening public will ever delight in the biggest rose and enjoy the largest fruit, and even crow over those who can show no such evidence of misdirected skill in cultivation. Since it is too late to hope that florists will ever work at lessening the size of flowers, or in restoring the lost balance between leaf and blossom, I would bring to the reader's notice plants which either attract by their leaves alone or by a perfect association of flowers and foliage. A few groups of such as these may lift out of the common rut even the most "squat" and most uninteresting of parterres, and make some semblance of a garden of them, while on the garden fringe where, without seeming change, the artificial gives way to the natural, their presence is invaluable. Let me walk lightly and tread with care, that I may not alienate the sympathies of readers who disagree with me.

The first plant that I shall recommend is one that possesses in a peculiar degree the merits that appear to me to indicate naturalness in a plant, a just proportion of leaves and flowers. It is unsurpassed for gaudy bloom, but, happily, its leaves are as fine as ever they were, and in some varieties they are almost of greater decorative value than the flowers. I ask those who are endeared to the garish display of flat masses of bedding plants, at least to find room for one group of Cannas. I venture to say that another season room will be found for more. I give this recommendation in spite of the words of Mrs.

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Shafer in her recently published "White Paper Garden." "I need no warning," she says, "but the shudder of my own soul to tell me that the flare of Cannas is little short of an immorality." She goes on to say that "William Morris may have been right when he said that red Geraniums were invented solely to show that even a flower could be hideous," but I protest that the two plants have nothing in common. One of them preserves its stately form, its distinction of outline, the other has nothing to boast of but its blossoms.

What exquisite association of leaf and flower is found in the Plume Poppy (*Bocconia cordata*), the Ornamental Seakale (*Crambe cordifolia*), the Goat's Beard (*Spiræa Aruncus*), the Plantain Lily (*Funkia*), Fennel (*Ferula*), the Maidenhair Plant (*Thalictrum*), the Chalk Plant (*Gypsophila*), the Sea Holly (*Eryngium*), and perennial Lobelia (*cardinalis*) !

But let it not be said that I am wearying the reader with a list, for lists without due explanation are the bane of the gardening reader, and too often the joy of the gardening writer. Some plants that have only leaves to recommend them are *Acacia lophantha*, the Castor Oil Plant (*Ricinus*), Blue Gum (*Eucalyptus*), Hemp (*Cannabis sativa*), and the Summer Cypress (*Kochia trichophylla*). Others that one would not recommend for the company of formal flowers, since they are giants, and the contrast would be too incongruous, are the Gunnera, perhaps the largest leaved of all plants,

UNSPOILT FLOWERS

New Zealand Flax (*Arundo*), Pampas Grass (*Gynerium* or *Cortaderia*), Giant Hemlock (*Heracleum*), the Silvery Leaved Polygonum, Yucca and Flame Flower (*Tritoma*). These are for the garden fringe where formality disappears and man's handiwork is no longer self-proclaimed. There is not one of the plants I have named that does not look best in the company of its fellows. Plants are conservative in that they are most attractive when disposed with others of their kind—a Daisy path, a field of Wild Orchis, a woodland walk with Bluebells bordered—all these are perfect in their way, but mix them up, and what disaster, what incongruity! So, too, with cultivated plants.

I have never had the inclination to count the number of kinds of plants, "dot" plants, groundwork plants, corner plants, edging plants, and all the rest of them that go to make up one of those mixed borders that are so popular in public parks and gardens. I wish that I had filled a page of my notebook (it would have needed quite a page to enumerate them) that I might now expose the strange mixture, accentuate the hopeless incongruity. Alas! I have missed an opportunity. Let me put in a plea for the simple way of growing flowers, the way that is within the reach of everyone. If you must have a bed of Geraniums, by all means do so; but rather than dot it here and there with the graceful Acacia, or the handsome-leaved Ricinus, or the silvery-leaved Artemisia, let the Geraniums have a flower bed to them-

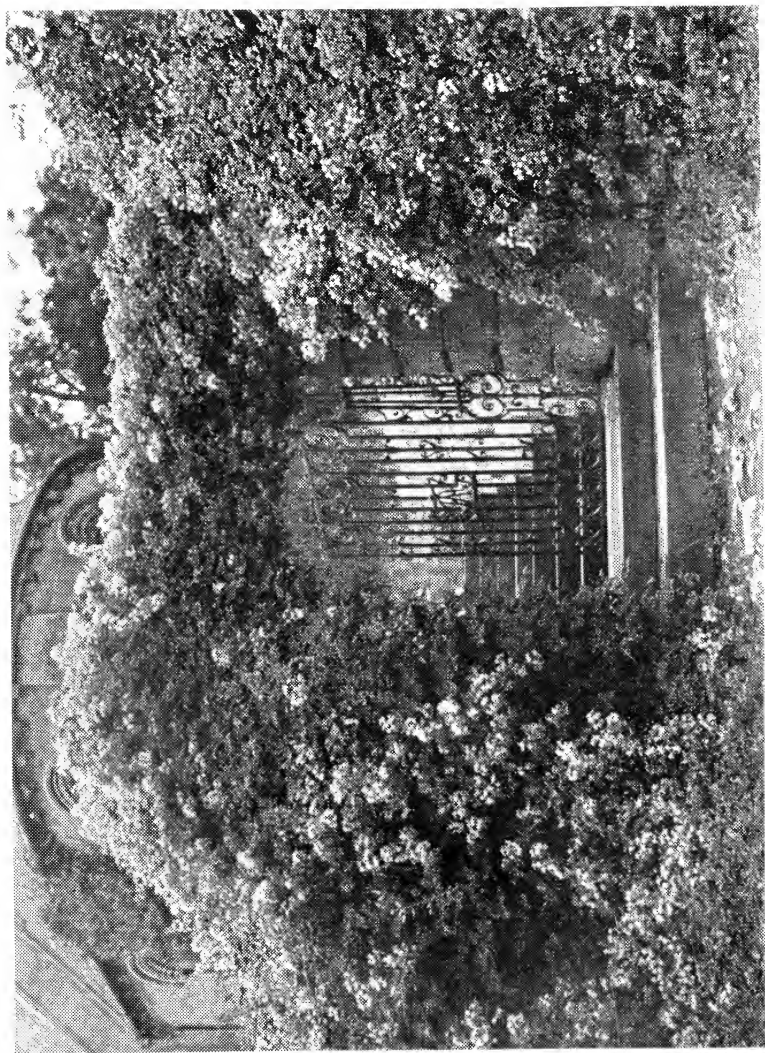
THE GARDEN AT HOME

selves, and let the others have also a bed to themselves. At least, do not mix plants that are grown for the sake of their leaves alone with those whose claim to distinction is in their blossom. I would not say that a group of *Acacia lophantha* upon a ground covering of silvery-leaved *Artemisia* was out of place, but use red *Geraniums*, yellow *Calceolarias*, or any other flowers you choose in place of the *Acacia*, and the result will be entirely different.

I venture to state that, as a rule, the beauty of one plant is not enhanced by its association with another. There are exceptions, I am free to admit, or else, with due regard to the old adage, how could one formulate the rule? You may show me spring flower-beds gay with scarlet *Tulips* above a ground planting of white *Arabis*, yellow *Tulips* equally gaudy above a ground planting of blue *Forget-me-not*, yet, while I am not unmoved at the display of blossom, and, it may be, the congruous association of colour, I make bold to confute you, and say that your planting is fundamentally wrong. That were the *Tulip* and *Hyacinth* blooms not too big for their leaves, which undoubtedly they are, there would be no need for a ground covering of other blossom. In support of my contention, let me ask if a flower-bed filled with *Daffodils* and *Daffodils* alone is not an exquisite picture? I shall, I am sure, compel you to admit that no ground planting could possibly add to its charm, while it is conceivable that it might easily prove a detraction.



A BEAUTIFUL BLUE-FLOWERED SHRUB (CEANOTHUS PAPILLOSUS) ON A WALL FACING
SOUTH-EAST



TRAVELLER'S JOY (CLEMATIS VITALBA) OVER GARDEN GATEWAY

UNSPOILT FLOWERS

The explanation is found in the fact that the florist has not yet succeeded in disturbing the balance of leaf and flower in the most admirable of spring blossoms, consequently its leaves furnish all the ground covering that is necessary. Those of us who live another fifty years may quite conceivably grow Daffodils with giant blossoms and short, puny leaves. Then I should be the first to admit that a ground covering of Forget-me-not would make a most attractive bed. But should I not be able to point out that once upon a time the Daffodil had leaves such as Nature gave it, and then it made a complete planting in itself? While efforts exercised in an artificial direction have compelled the gardener to hide the bare soil from view with secondary planting—and what good gardener would not?—let me plead for the simple planting with unspoilt plants, those that have leaves and flowers in just proportion.

CHAPTER XIII

SOME UNCOMMON AUTUMN FLOWERS

Is not the gardener's summer often as long-lived as he chooses to make it?

THOSE whose happiest moments are spent among the plants and flowers—and how many of us gardeners are unashamed to make such confession!—view with keen regret the passing of summer and autumn. It is a sad day when the line is crossed. But do we all make the most of our gardens in autumn, and bid the summer linger? Is not the gardener's summer often as long-lived as he chooses to make it? It is true that most gardens contain a few Dahlias, Michaelmas Daisies, Chrysanthemums, Moon Daisies, and Japanese Anemones; but, beautiful though these are, I think there are many equally as fascinating and unworthily neglected.

I believe most amateurs know and make use of those two invaluable Sneezeworts with handsome bronze and yellow blooms (*Helenium autumnale cupreum*, growing only 3 feet high, and the 5-feet high *striatum*); but that beautiful Coneflower (*Rudbeckia speciosa*), with rich, yellow, black-coned flowers, that are at their best in September, is far too rarely seen. It grows only about

SOME UNCOMMON AUTUMN FLOWERS

20 inches high, and in this respect is the reverse of that most lovely autumn flower *Rudbeckia Golden Glow*, which has growths 5 feet high or more, each crowned with double golden blossoms. How exquisite is the *Belladonna Lily*, especially the variety *gigantea*—particularly if it is planted in the spot it loves so well, a little prepared border at the foot of a warm fence or greenhouse wall! Its attractiveness may be enhanced by planting immediately in front of it the neglected *Indian Crocus* (*Zephyranthes candida*). This is a charming September blooming bulbous plant, with *Crocus*-like, evergreen leaves and large star-like, white, yellow-centred flowers. An admirable plant for an uncommon and satisfactory edging.

How few of us grow the lovely *Cosmos*, an annual 4 feet to 5 feet high, with graceful, feathery foliage and large, rose-pink blooms resembling a single *Dahlia*! Another delightful little annual, with grey, *Marguerite*-like leaves, and brilliant, yellow *Poppy*-like flowers, at their best in September, rejoices in the somewhat alarming name of *Hunnemannia fumariæfolia*; but despite this drawback, I can strongly urge its inclusion in the autumn garden. Need I explain that these two flowers, being annuals, may be sown outdoors in April where they are to bloom? Everyone knows that *Tropæolums*—or *Nasturtiums*, as they are miscalled—continue to bloom until cut down by frost if planted in poor soil; even then the value of many of them is spoilt by the profusion of

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leaves, which so often hide the flowers. One of the prettiest and daintiest and smallest *Nasturtiums* I have ever seen is called *Elsae*. It struck me as being an ideal edging plant, since it never gets out of bounds. It has brilliant red flowers and quite small leaves, and is altogether a most attractive and a most useful little plant.

I am sure there are few who realise the charm of the *Marguerite Carnations* for autumn bloom, for they are so fresh and so fair just when most flowers are beginning to look dowdy. A little group of them put out in the flower border, where some blank occurs, will ensure pleasing blossom in quantity until the weather is such that flowers cannot open at all. The *Groundsel* family does not seem at first sight a happy hunting-ground for garden flowers ; but two, at least, are lovely in autumn. One is something like the common *Groundsel* in size and stature, but it has big, double, vermilion blooms. It is a striking colour, and a group of it is most attractive. The other is *Senecio pulcher*, really a most handsome plant, with large, carmine, yellow-centred flowers, on branching stems, some 2 feet to 3 feet high. Still classed with the *Groundsels* is *Senecio elegans*, a very pretty little plant, having rose purple flowers and elegant leaves. It only grows about 10 inches high.

Those who care to grow their own *Everlastings* may like to hear of a very pretty little *Immortelle* that can be grown in the garden border, and of which the flowers are at their best in September. Its name—alas!—is



SWEET PEAS IN THE HOME GARDEN



ROSE NOVA ZEMBLA (WHITE)

SOME UNCOMMON AUTUMN FLOWERS

Anaphalis rubigera intermedia. It grows only 12 inches high, bears bunches of white, dry-looking flowers that last a long time when cut, and has pretty grey leaves. And what about Goldilocks (*Aster Linosyris*), one of the most charming of the Michaelmas Daisies? Goldilocks is familiar enough as a name, but how far less familiar is the plant itself! It grows only about 20 inches high, and is smothered in small, yellow blooms in September. The pedant, or one out of humour with himself, might find its stiff growth and formal outline a little too pronounced; but that is the utmost that can be urged against it.

Artemisia lactiflora (one of the Wormwoods) is a plant not met with in the average garden, yet none who have seen its graceful, leafy growths, some 5 feet high, crowned with creamy flowers in loose panicles, which are at their best in September, can suppress their admiration. Among the Chamomiles are one or two that deserve wider recognition than they can claim at present, especially *Anthemis tinctoria*, and its improved variety, *Kelwayi*; both grow about 18 inches high, and have attractive yellow flowers and pretty Marguerite-like leaves. *Anthemis nobilis*, 10 inches high, having white, yellow-centred blooms, also makes strong appeal as a neglected autumn flower. The grey-leaved Knotweed (*Polygonum lanigerum*) is not eligible for inclusion among uncommon autumn flowers, but I mention it because it figured in a charming plant association that greatly attracted me. A clump¹⁸⁸⁸ of a

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fine mauve-blue Michaelmas Daisy, called Feltham Blue, was planted close by the bold, grey-leaved Knotweed, and on that October day I saw nothing finer.

As I conclude, let me draw the reader's attention to an old Michaelmas Daisy that in these days of innumerable new varieties is in danger of being lost sight of—namely, *Aster Novae-Angliae ruber*. Here again the charm of right colour association is apparent, for the foliage is dark green, against which the fine rose-crimson blossoms show to great advantage.

CHAPTER XIV

ROSES

Sunshine and a little shelter without shade mould the golden key that unlocks the magic gate dividing success from failure.

IF I were asked to convert the unbeliever to the faith of rose-growing, I would place before him in mid-September a bowl of such fragrant loveliness as is furnished by Pharisæer, Gustav Grunerwald, Mme. Antoine Mari, Mme. Hoste, Betty, Prince de Bulgarie, and Grüss an Teplitz. Possibly his first feeling would be that of surprise, for in these enlightened days of roses and rose-growing there are some still ignorant of the fact that it is possible to gather roses almost as lovely in September as in July. To the gardener, I think, they have even a greater charm. The petals may lack a little lustre, the leaves a little green, yet, bathed in the exquisite dew of a September morning that adds hours to their lives and a fresh beauty to their perfection, the appeal is irresistible. There are still some who grow the old favourites that from long life have acquired a reputation that belies their value. Those who grow for exhibition can scarcely afford to be without a few of the misnamed Hybrid Perpetuals (for they are the reverse of perpetual flowering), such as Ulrich Brunner,

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Gustave Piganeau, Suzanne Marie Rodocanachi, and the rest. But those of us who grow only for garden display and for home pleasure can very well afford to dispense with most of them.

The roses that appeal to us are not the giant, full-bodied blooms, in rose or pink or red, that come in niggardly twos and threes, roses that one is afraid to gather in fear of denuding the garden of its blossom. Rather do we pin our faith and place our affection on the Teas and Hybrid Teas that yield flowers of rainbow tints, incomparable in the bud and possessing a beauty all their own in the open flower; roses that do not bloom solitarily, but yield their harvest in such profusion that one may gather posies every day, buds and blossoms in riotous loveliness from May Day until Michaelmas. The skilled worker among the flowers, the wizard who raises new varieties from old, has placed some wonderfully beautiful roses within our reach during the past few years, and the majority grow with such vigour and flower with such freedom that even the beginner cannot fail to succeed with them.

The home gardener should scarcely start rose-growing unless he has plenty of garden room, otherwise he is laying up for himself many sad moments, and, need I add, many hours of indescribable delight. The witchery of it is that once one begins growing roses, not only is there no chance of relinquishing it, but each autumn, as the catalogues come in, and the gardening papers publish



A ROSE CORNER IN THE HOME GARDEN



CLIMBING ROSE TEA RAMBLER; PINK AND COPPER SHADES,
VERY BEAUTIFUL AND EASILY GROWN

ROSES

special rose-planting numbers, one is compelled, willy-nilly, to invest in another dozen or so. And if that grim spectre, lack of space, should stare you in the face, how appalling, how disastrous ! For some years now I have been confronted by this unenviable apparition, and yearly, as my rose beds expand, the lawn grows less and the paths diminish. When I come to the end of my tether, as soon I must, what is there to do but discard some of those that have proved less worthy than others, and to replace with newer sorts ? Yes ; but discarding the good to make way for the better is heart-breaking work. One ought to find room for both. Let me then counsel the home gardener at the outset to allow for the expansion of his garden of roses ; it is inevitable.

If there is any greater delight than reading the glorious accounts of the roses one chooses for purchase and in planting them, it lies in anticipating the time when they shall blossom and fulfil, or fall short of, the raiser's description. The scarlet rose may prove to be but a red one, the red rose pink, and the yellow rose cream ; even then it is not wise always to blame the vendor. Try a thick sprinkling of basic slag on the soil in November and a " good dusting " of bone-meal in March when pruning is done, forking both materials among the soil, prune hard, and, with fair play on the part of the clerk of the weather, you may yet modify the unpleasant things that came to mind about the rose grower and the new roses he sent you.

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Whereabouts shall we create our home rose garden? Where shadows fall, and it is cool at noonday and the sunshine only filters through, where, above all things, it is pleasant to linger in high summer time? Seductive though this may seem, tempting though it may sound, be not misled, for a rose garden in the shade is one of many leaves and few blossoms. Shall it, then, be in the open ground, that watches the sun go round, and where the light falls full from dawn till dusk? Assuredly yes, for the rose is a flower that, above all things, loves the sunshine, and is prone to languish in the shade. If the winds that are apt to blow fiercely where the sun shines most warmly can be schooled by shelter that they come softly and with a gentler touch, why, then the roses will be all the happier, and there will be fewer failures to record when the rose year is past and the rosarian makes his reckoning. Sunshine and a little shelter without shade mould the golden key that unlocks the magic gate dividing success from failure. Within—a little paradise of frail buds and bewitching blossoms, languorous and sweet with attar of roses, an enchanted spot, beguiling, and full of exquisite charm. Without—a waste of leaves and a want of bloom.

Think not to make of the home rose garden solely a show place, a place gaudy with flowers that strike a brilliant note from afar, for not thus do roses rightly charm. If an inspiring display from a mass of bloom is the aim in view, let the gardener accomplish his end



ROSE BLUSH RAMBLER ON ARCH AT GARROCK, SEVENOAKS

ROSES

by other means than that of roses. Let him plant a clump of Lilac or Laburnum or red-flowered May or Azalea and Rhododendron, then, as the years pass, shall he rejoice to his heart's content in an excess of pleasure, such as the contemplation of a gorgeous picture gives. One must, of course, give due praise to such luxuriant blossoming climbers as Dorothy Perkins, Lady Gay, Crimson Rambler, Hiawatha, and a few others, for their inimitable flower display, but only when they are massed in scores can their show compare in luxuriance with that of some of the commonest flowering trees and shrubs. It is in their favour that they come to full flowerhood more quickly. Even when this admission is made it remains, so it seems to me, that he who plants roses solely that his garden shall be a blaze of colour plants as a Philistine, and would be better suited by red Geraniums.

Think of the Rhododendron Dell at Kew, a long dip in the garden ground, in the bed of which flows a seductive, winding path ; on either side it is flanked by huge bushes that in early summer lose their leaves in an ecstasy of bloom. To right and left, down low, and on high to where the tender green of the encircling trees droops to caress them—one incomparable blaze of colour, in shades that are clear and bright, in brilliant shades and those that are bizarre and even in themselves displeasing. But the onlooker is so enraptured with the gorgeous colouring of the mass that isolated instances of

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marring contrasts and unpleasant associations are not perceived. He comes away with an impression of rich colour display run riot, a galaxy of bloom, and is filled with wonderment at the accomplishments of Nature and the gardener.

Think again for one moment of the Rose Dell not far away. Here, too, is a shallow dip in the garden ground, but—and at once its charm impresses you—the winding path is wide instead of narrow, and it is of grass instead of gravel. Though it is high summer and the roses are in full bloom, there is no such gorgeous canvas outspread as in the Rhododendron Dell. Roses renowned for their striking colour masses are freely represented, but it is not the intense brilliance of the display that makes chief appeal. Rather is one tempted to wander here and there, to linger and make the acquaintance of this and that variety. In short, there is a romance about the rose, a seductive charm about its every blossom, that fascinates the gardener. He who sees in a rose only a glow of colour has yet to learn the secret spell of the queen of flowers. So, in planting our rose garden, let it be within easy step of the house that we may, as the mood takes us, be able at once to lose ourselves among the roses, enjoy their fragrance, and make their intimate acquaintance. Let us not plant even the showiest of them on the distant lawn for the sake of their colour glow in the landscape, for, as I have pointed out, there are other trees and shrubs more suitable, yet possessed of no compelling

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invitation to a closer study, and wisely, since they are more attractive from afar.

How and after what design shall we fashion our garden of roses? Each must settle details for himself, but to add a fresh glamour to its fascination, an old-world charm to its newness, let the paths be of grass, or flagged with brick or paved with stone, and crown the centre with a sundial. Let the plan be formal. If the walks are allowed to wind (and be sure they do not wriggle) there is the chance that the beds may take all sorts of fantastic shapes, then, like mists before the morning sunshine, garden magic vanishes. Above all things, let the plan be simple and plainly fashioned, and leave the embroidery to the roses.

There will be, of course, plenty of poles and pillars, a pergola and an arbour, and all need careful placing. First and chiefly have an eye to the sunshine, that the roses in the beds are not deprived of their full share. The arbour should be placed where it commands a view of the whole garden, if it be possible, or at least the greater part of it, and let its back be towards the sunshine, so will its face be in the shade. Let the pergola show the way to the gathering of roses, and the poles and pillars—why, have them on the outskirts of the garden, so that they shelter but do not shade the roses in the beds. If a sundial is not to mark the centre, then let it be filled with a weeping rose, for of all the many exquisite forms in which the rose may be

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grown, there is none so surpassing fair as that of a weeping standard.

There is no need to have poles stiff and erect and straight. Why not arrange groups of three or four, bringing them together at the top, and so at flowering time produce a perfect pyramid of bloom? Or one may top the pole with an umbrella-shaped contrivance made of thick wire or bamboo canes. When the lissom growths reach the top of the pole they may be spread out, and will fall in lovely clusters. How far better thus than bunched together as pillar roses too often are! For this purpose it is necessary to choose one of the rampant roses with slender growths, such, for instance, as Alberic Barbier, Dorothy Perkins, or Hiawatha.

How shall we group our roses? Shall we have each bed of one sort, of two sorts, or of many sorts? And shall we grow few or many varieties? It must depend on the space at disposal. If the object is merely garden display and to provide plenty of flowers for cutting, then it is better to choose, say, a dozen varieties and to put in a fair number of plants of each. If, however, the rose itself is a flower of intense interest to the home gardener, a flower of which he cannot know too much, then let him plant many varieties and two or three plants of each. It is a great mistake to grow only one plant of any variety of rose. It may succeed admirably; it may do fairly well; it may languish; it may die. How, in such a case, is one to form a just conception of its qualifications?

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One should always buy two or three plants at least of each rose, then a right estimate of its value can be obtained.

Although by filling one's rose garden with innumerable varieties it never makes such an attractive show as when a few sorts are massed, each in a bed to itself, the interest is, I think, far greater.

Different roses have such characteristic points, such marked individuality, and respond so readily to special treatment, that there is untold delight in possessing a collection of many varieties. It is only when one grows numerous sorts of roses that one comes to realise fully what a wonderful flower this is, and how much nearer it creeps to one's heart than any other garden plant. One rose may compel admiration because of its most perfect form or exquisite colouring in the bud ; another—as, for instance, a single rose—only expose its beauty when wide open ; some, as the Hybrid Perpetuals, prove admirable from the moment the colour first shows until the last petal fades ; others (ah ! why do I name them last ?) bewitch us by their fragrance, and how rose fragrance varies !

If we fill rose beds for the sake of a fine flower show with a few distinguished varieties, how are we to arrive at a proper appreciation of this queen of flowers, so infinitely varied and each variation in itself of infinite charm ? So I shall counsel the home gardener, if his garden is circumscribed, to grow not fewer than three and not more than six plants of each rose. If his

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heart is sometimes saddened at the superior display in a friend's garden, he shall find consolation and more than sufficient compensation in the satisfaction that a deeper knowledge of the flower begets.

Because one grows many different roses in a comparatively small space there is no reason why one should mix them up indiscriminately ; even if all the plants of the same variety are kept together, as, of course, they should be, the show of bloom will not be disappointing. But much more than this may be done by a careful comingling of the colours, by placing red near white, crimson by yellow, the pinks together, and so on.

Sometimes one is asked, " Which is your favourite rose ? " But what an impossible question ! One may have a dozen roses, each as warm a favourite as the other, since each may appeal in its own especial way. All roses that one would not willingly be without may be classed as favourites ; the distinction implies that they are in some degree of peculiar value. For instance, I would not care to be dispossessed of Caroline Testout, for though the blooms lack fragrance, there is nothing to compare with the big pink flowers, that, boasting little grace of form, keep the garden gay for weeks and months together. Even their September show is sometimes as fine as that of high summer, and in face of this one can forgive a rose everything else. And what a glorious standard Caroline Testout makes, invariably vigorous and free, as, alas ! so many varieties in standard

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form are not. General McArthur appeals to me as the finest of all red roses for the garden ; its blooms are not large, nor yet very double, but the plant grows lustily, and each shoot that forms bears a rich harvest of buds and blossoms. It flowers later than any rose I have, and throughout November it is always possible to have a little vaseful of General McArthur.

Hugh Dickson is a splendid crimson rose, large, full, and of good form, but it is not very free in autumn, and it grows with such vigour that a fence or pillar is the only suitable place for it. Pharisaer is distinguished by lovely long buds of salmon-rose colouring on long stems that render them ideal either for garden decoration or for the home. Gustav Grunerwald is unique in colour and most attractive ; the carmine rose blooms are large and very showy. Richmond is a very free-flowering red rose, pretty in the bud and excellent in autumn. Betty is exquisite in bud form, though the flowers are thin and soon become full blown. But it is in bloom the season through, and especially charming in autumn. La Tosca, creamy rose, grows vigorously and blossoms almost as freely in September as in July. Souvenir de Maria de Zayas, despite its ungainly name, is a most attractive rose of bright carmine colouring, a sturdy grower, always healthy and satisfactory. Mme. Abel Chatenay is a beautiful rose, pale salmon with rose shading in the centre. It is good in summer and in autumn. Mme. Léon Pain, white, with pink-brown centre ; Antoine Rivoire, cream,

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with deeper shading in the centre ; Mme. Ravary, pale apricot yellow ; Mrs. G. W. Kershaw, a fine big pink rose of good form ; Viscountess Folkestone, creamy white and pale pink ; Grace Darling, cream and rose, in bloom all the season, though lacking in fragrance and somewhat in grace ; all these roses should be in every home garden.

To complete a selection of two dozen varieties I should add Mme. Hoste, creamy white, and Mme. Antoine Mari, lilac rose and white, two exquisite little Teas that continue blooming until late in the autumn ; the Lyons Rose of fascinating colour shades, chiefly yellow and salmon and rose ; Fisher Holmes, crimson scarlet, one of the best of the dark roses, and giving a few blooms in autumn ; G. C. Waud, rose suffused with orange, a fine showy variety and vigorous ; Frau Karl Druschki, I suppose, one must have, as it is still the best white rose, though none too good after the summer, and the home gardener might very well try Molly Sharman Crawford instead ; Mrs. Theodore Roosevelt, flesh pink, and Lady Ashtown, a lovely pink rose, vigorous and free. My selection of two dozen necessarily leaves out plenty of beautiful roses, but all those named I know to be very attractive and very satisfactory sorts ; that is to say, they not only produce beautiful flowers, but they grow well, and that is a most important point.

It is difficult to detect much fragrance in many roses of to-day ; numbers are slightly scented, but one cannot

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class them as really fragrant. As a rule, a red (especially a dark red or crimson) rose is sweet-scented, and this we find to be the case with Fisher Holmes, Hugh Dickson, Château de Clos Vougeot, A. K. Williams, Liberty, Richmond, Avoca, Alfred Colomb, Charles Lefebvre, C. J. Grahame, Commandant Felix Faure, and Duke of Edinburgh. These are twelve richly coloured roses with pronounced fragrance, but I should not like to recommend them all to the home gardener for garden display. Avoca, Commandant F. Faure, Duke of Edinburgh, Charles Lefebvre, A. Colomb, and A. K. Williams will give scarcely any blooms after the summer display. Richmond is especially good in autumn; Liberty is good, Hugh Dickson, Château de Clos Vougeot, Fisher Holmes, and C. J. Grahame are fairly good.

Among fragrant roses of other shades are Augustine Guinoisseau, a charming little white rose, very free the season through; the old La France and Mrs. John Laing, different shades of pink; Zéphérin Drouhin, the thornless rose, a vigorous variety that makes a fair-sized bush, or may be trained against a 6-foot fence, and the giant pink Conrad F. Meyer, one of the sweetest roses grown. I have a big bush of this, 8 feet or 10 feet high, and as much through. That old white climbing rose, Bennett's Seedling, which is smothered in small blossoms in July—and, alas! in July only—has a very pronounced musky scent which some find pleasant and some do not. Mme. Isaac Pereire, an old and

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vigorous rose that soon forms a fairly big bush, or may be trained as a pillar rose, has large fragrant rose-coloured flowers. Captain Hayward, light red, is also sweetly scented. The old Cabbage Rose or Rose of Provence perhaps excels them all in point of fragrance. Dr. O'Donel Browne, one of the newer varieties, of carmine-rose colouring, and the new yellow variety Duchess of Wellington, possess quite a marked fragrance. Dupuy Jamain and Etienne Levet are two old varieties of rose colouring that are markedly sweet-scented.

The old Gloire de Dijon still holds high rank among fragrant roses, and when grown against a wall the blooms seem especially sweet. The crimson, semi-double Grüss an Teplitz, that makes a big bush, and is remarkably showy in autumn; Souvenir de Maria de Zayas and Viscountess Folkestone, to which I have already alluded; W. E. Lippiat, a lovely dark velvety crimson rose; and two very old sorts, Prince Arthur, dark red, and Marie Baumann, carmine-red, are all sweetly scented. W. E. Lippiat, Prince Arthur, and Marie Baumann are not to be classed amongst the best roses for garden display.

Among climbing roses there are several, in addition to the ubiquitous Dorothy Perkins and Crimson Rambler, that ought to find a place in every home garden. One of my chief favourites is Alberic Barbier, a most vigorous rose bearing lustrous, deep green leaves that persist until the new year, a delightful harvest of yellow buds and



A PILLAR OF ROSE DOROTHY PERKINS



ROSE DOROTHY PAGE ROBERTS

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creamy blossoms in late June, and quite a fair number in early autumn. Trier is a remarkable rose ; it is scarcely a true climber, but more correctly classed as a pillar rose, since it grows only about 5 feet high. It makes numerous growths, so that it has the appearance of a somewhat slender bush, but the remarkable thing about it is that it is in bloom throughout the summer and autumn. The flowers are white and single, and are produced at the ends of each fresh growth that forms, so one has only to keep Trier growing continually to have continual blossom. Minnehaha is of great vigour and bears large bunches of deep pink blossom, and Tausendschön, less vigorous, has very showy clusters of rose-pink flowers. René André, a lovely rose, in shades of yellow and red, makes long slender growths that quickly cover an arch or arbour.

American Pillar is a most vigorous climber with very large single rose-coloured blossoms that are unusually striking. Rubin is a delightful variety. It grows quickly and vigorously, its flowers are quite an uncommon shade of crimson, and the young reddish shoots and leaves add to its attractiveness. Blush Rambler is most lovely when its flowers, like big clusters of Apple blossom, are at their best, although they last in beauty none too long ; this rose is very vigorous. Hiawatha is quite one of the best of all, despite the fact that its crimson blossoms have a bunch of golden stamens for centre, and are therefore single. It lasts longer in beauty than any climbing rose

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I know. White Dorothy Perkins is a good rose, but it has to be associated with those of brighter colouring to be seen at its best.

I would like to counsel readers against forming an opinion about a rose the first summer after planting, especially if planting be carried out later than the first week in November. Often enough its behaviour is altogether different the second year if it is left undisturbed. Though it make little growth the first year, and consequently give few blooms, it may conceivably astonish the gardener by its vigour and profusion of bloom the second season. I have had this experience many times. So I would ask the reader to withhold his estimate of the value of a rose until the end of the second season. If at that time three plants of the same variety can be set down as failures, it would deserve to be discarded.

I think many people fail to give their roses a chance because they won't plant them well and leave them alone. I believe strongly in leaving a plant undisturbed so long as it is satisfactory. It is not much use attempting to improve it by digging it up and planting it somewhere else. I know that many rose growers make it a rule to transplant their rose bushes every three years or so, but even if the roses are longer-lived when so treated, the check throws them back for one season, and there is much lost ground to be made up before they are as good as they were before. It is

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true that old roses—that is to say, those that have grown into big bushes—may often be rejuvenated by transplanting in better soil and by hard pruning, but when roses become decrepit it is far better to throw them away and put in fresh ones. Climbing roses recover in a remarkable manner if, when they are unsatisfactory, they are taken up and replanted in prepared soil, and all shoots are cut down to within a few inches of the ground. Invariably a number of vigorous new shoots form that will blossom the following year, and the plant enters upon a new lease of life.

A great mystery seems to possess rose growing in the eyes of the beginner, but let him not be disheartened by the mass of apparently intricate details that encompass the subject, for they serve only to cloak a very simple issue—namely, that rose growing is actually as easy as A B C, providing one does the right thing at the right time. Let us see what are the right things to do and when they should be done. Early autumn, October, is perhaps rather a depressing season for the budding rose-grower to make a start, but, it is then that the initial preparation—in plainer language, digging—is done. Any soil that is rather clayey will grow first rate roses if it is dug 2 feet deep and if 8 ounces of basic slag are mixed with every square yard of ground. Basic slag is a valuable artificial fertiliser, of which amateurs cannot be too strongly advised to make good use. If one can obtain rotted manure from the farmyard, and use this

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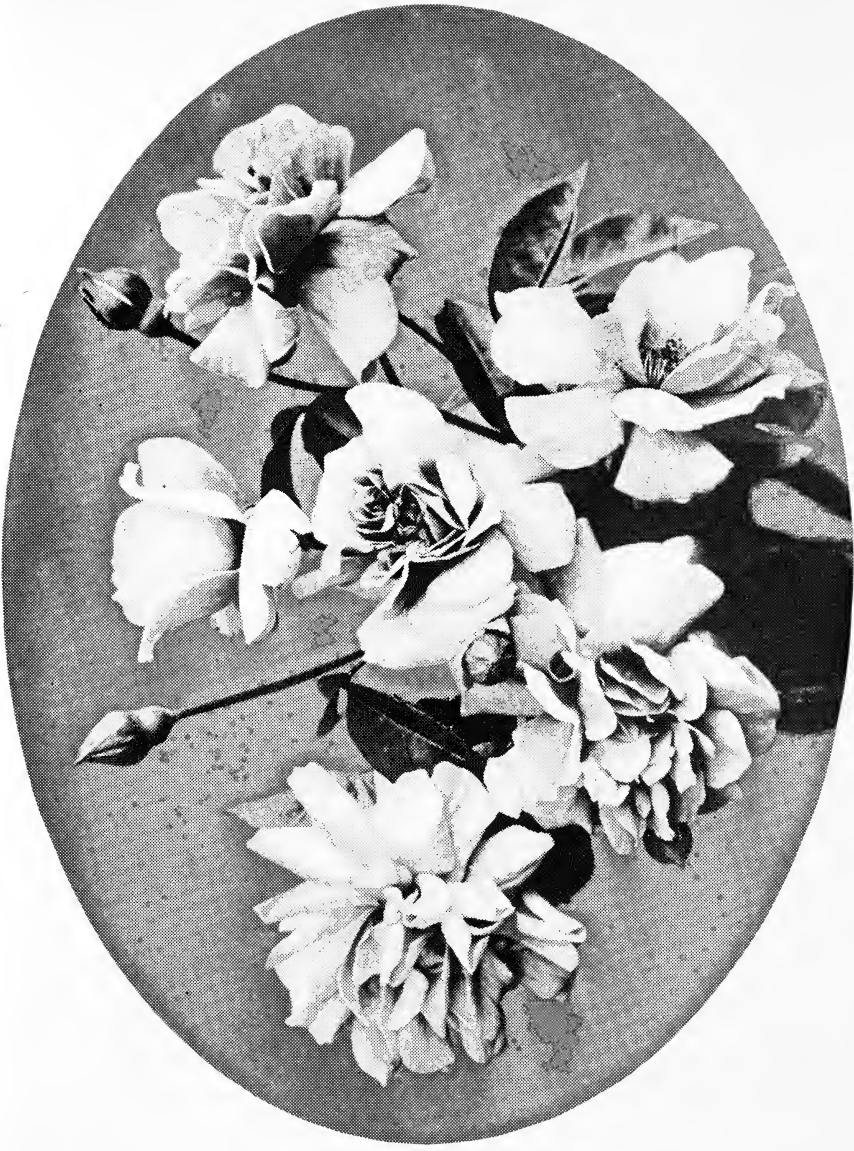
at the rate of a barrow load to the square yard, there is nothing better ; but basic slag, to give it the least praise that is its due, is a most admirable substitute. It may be used in addition to the manure. Basic slag contains a good deal of lime, and is an especially valuable fertiliser for old gardens that have been heavily manured for some years.

Here is a simple direction for the digging and manuring of a rose border. " Commence by marking out one yard in width across the border, dig out the top spadeful all along this section, and wheel it away to the end of the border. Then shovel out the ' crumbs,' and wheel them also to the end. This completes the top spit. With a fork break up the next layer of soil. On this layer put a good dressing (2 inches or 3 inches in thickness) of well rotted manure, and fork it in with the broken-up soil. Scatter also some basic slag, about 8 ounces to the square yard. Then mark out another yard width and proceed to dig the top spit, and throw this into the trench in front. Shovel up the ' crumbs,' throw them on the other soil, and the first yard width of border is level again and complete. Each trench of one yard in width is treated in the same manner until the border is finished."

The first week in November is the ideal time to plant, and the longer planting is delayed after that period the smaller are the chances of success the following summer. But roses may be planted throughout the winter, in mild



ROSE CONRAD F. MEYER, VERY VIGOROUS, WITH PINK,
FRAGRANT FLOWERS



ROSE WILLIAM ALLEN RICHARDSON

ROSES

weather, when the soil is not sodden, and until the end of March. Planting during April, May, and June is advisable only when the roses are bought in pots, and need I add that in this case they cost a good deal more? There is certainly no mystery about the actual planting. One needs merely to cut off any broken and bruised ends of roots, to immerse the roots in a puddle of clay and water for a few minutes previous to planting, to put the plants at such a depth that the point of budding, the junction of stock and scion, is covered by an inch of soil, to work the soil well among the roots and to make it firm. In planting standard roses it is necessary to put in the stake before the roots are covered. A good average distance to allow between each rose bush is 20 inches. When planting is completed it is wise to shorten by half each of the shoots. This prevents the bushes from being blown about in windy weather; if this happens it may retard their becoming established. It is wise also to take off all the leaves. Some varieties lose their leaves more quickly than others, and while some plants arrive from the nursery quite bare, others are still in full leaf. I have known of roses transplanted in July, and the success was declared to be due to the fact that all leaves were taken off.

All the protection bush roses need during winter may be provided by heaping a little mound of soil about the base of the plants and among the lower branches. Standards may be protected by bracken thrust among the branches.

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The pruning of newly planted roses is simplicity itself. All growths should be cut to within 3 inches or 4 inches of the base, leaving the more vigorous shoots the greater length. When the roses are established nicer discrimination is needed. But in dealing with bush or dwarf roses it is, I find, better to prune severely. The plants give better blossoms in summer and more of them in autumn, and live longer than when the pruning is light. The strongest growths may be shortened to six or eight buds, and the weaker ones should be cut back so that only two buds are left. Is it necessary to point out that all weak shoots and soft growths, and those that grow across the centre of the bush, should be first cut out, and to say how important it is to cut to a bud that points in an outward direction?

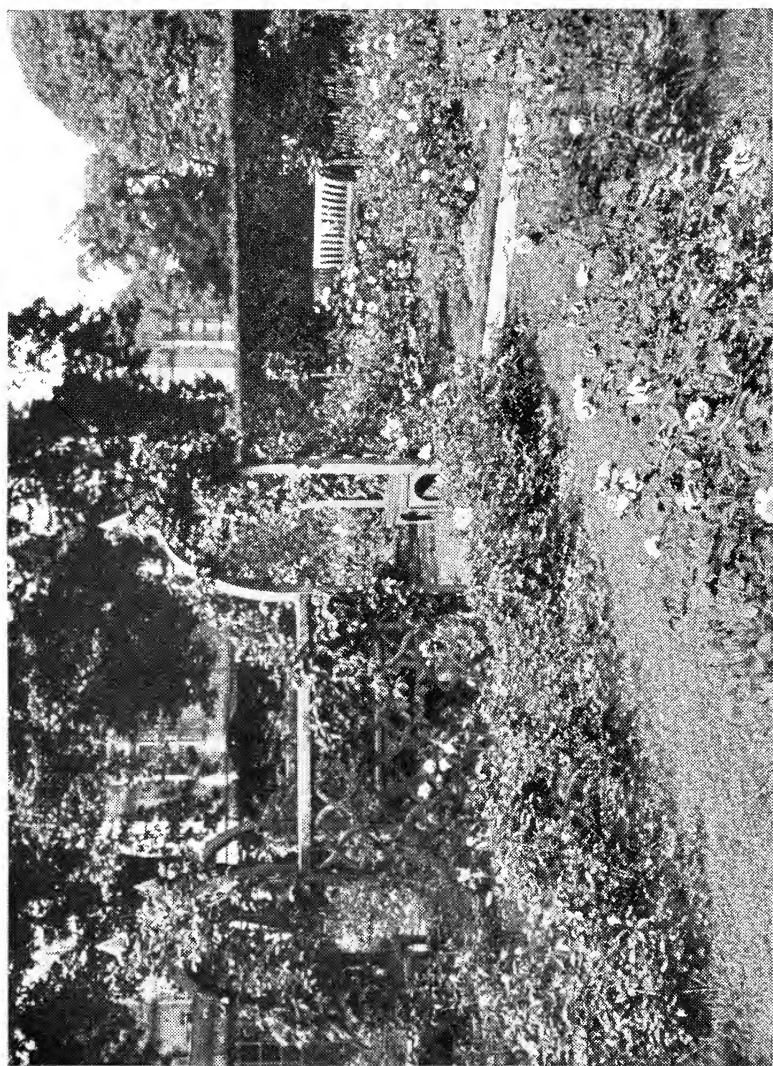
The third week in March is the best time for pruning roses generally, though the Teas, being more tender, are usually left until the first or second week in April.

Some roses commonly grown as bushes make exceptionally vigorous growth, and the best method of dealing with them is to peg down the shoots—that is, to attach the end to a peg in the soil, so that they are bent in semicircular form. They will then yield far more blossom than if hard pruned.

The chief pruning of climbing roses should take place in late summer, when the flowers are past, and should take the form of cutting out a few of the older growths to make room for the fresh ones springing from the base



FLOWERS OF CLIMBING ROSE MME. D'ARBLAY



BEDS OF ROSES FULL OF BLOSSOM

ROSES

of the plant. The spring pruning of climbing roses is confined to cutting off the soft ends of the long shoots (the tips may have been damaged by severe cold), and to cutting back all side growths from the main branches to within two or three buds of their base.

As soon as the March pruning is over the rose beds will benefit by a free sprinkling of bone-meal, and this should be forked beneath the soil surface. During the summer the constant use of the hoe is most advisable. Weeds are then kept down and the surface remains "fine," much to the benefit of the roses.

I know of nothing that gets rid of greenfly so well, and keeps the rose bushes so clean, as a weekly spraying, through a syringe having a "fine" nozzle, of Abol Insecticide. This may be obtained in tins with full directions for use from all chemists and horticultural sundriesmen, and is invaluable to the home gardener. When mildew, a greyish fungus that disfigures the leaves, makes its appearance in late summer, as it is almost sure to do, it may be destroyed by syringing the plants with a solution of Lifebuoy or Cyllin soft soap, but the better way is to syringe before the mildew makes its appearance. The best way of getting rid of the several maggots and caterpillars that attack the rosebuds and the leaves is by hand picking. The only other way is to use a poisonous wash and to spray this on the plants, so poisoning the food of the insects. Swift's Arsenate Paste is commonly recommended.

CHAPTER XV

MY GARDEN OF DREAMS

I would have plants full of fair blossom from the entrance to the exit of the garden, that there might come to the departing friend a "Vale" all full of fragrant breath.

FIRST of all, in the making of a garden I would have grass-grown ways between rose-embowered aisles, where Peace might close her wings and rest, where the tender sadness of half-remembered thoughts might linger on long-loved, old-world flowers, and ghosts of welcome memory haunt the mellowed gloom. Odorous blossom should fringe even the narrowest way, filling the air with subtle life, with fragrant echoes from a dimmed and distant past. Unless a garden is a place conjuring up dreams that soothe with a deep and tender solace, where peace and real contentment chase dull care away, it fails entirely of its purpose. Garish colouring and vivid contrasts tend to irritation of the mind, and are to be avoided. The garden that is of the world worldly, not losing its prosaicness in romance as leaves are smothered in blossom, is never a real home of flowers.

There are gardens and gardens ; some are mere assemblages of plants grown specially for the positions they fill,



A FORMAL GARDEN OF FREE GROWING FLOWERS



CLIMBING ROSES AND HARDY BORDER FLOWERS

MY GARDEN OF DREAMS

aliens from the reserve border, introduced, ready-made, as it were, for their fleeting display of gaudy bloom. These are but courtesy gardens—mere groups of plants, wanting in harmony, and without charm. A real garden is one in which the plants have grown from babyhood to flowerhood, and whose fragrance comes like a stray breeze from a tender past.

In the making of a garden Time plays an all-important part, touching crude colours to restful tones, and painting with its own inimitable brush of verdant moss and crested lichen. In a garden grown old under the fostering care of Time, the grassy ways are soft like velvet to the tread, the trees full grown, and giving welcome shade :—

“ Shelter where feeble feet
Might linger long or wander slow
And deem decadence sweet.”

A garden should be, as it were, a book of flowers ; every plant should have its story, each flower a page. It must be alive, full of the joy of sweet companionship—comrade and friend to whom one may turn for solace in time of sorrow, for right sympathy in time of joy. There should be flowers linked inseparably with far-off days standing as joyous landmarks on the path of Life. There would necessarily be others calling to mind days of sadness upon which it is good sometimes to dwell when the sharp sword of grief has lost its edge on the soothing shield of Time, for, dimmed by swift-flown years, poignant thoughts may come as hallowed memories, at evening

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tide on the wings of fragrance, wafted by twilight flowers, by Night-scented Stock, and Evening Primrose.

Since a flower without sweet scent is like a jewel without its setting, I would have borders of odorous blossom near the windows of the house, that none might forget how much flowers owe to fragrance ; more often than not it is the only safeguard between them and oblivion. But, most of all, my garden should be full of the Spirit of Life, all the flowers breathing a word of welcome. Growing as seems best to them, some would nod a friendly greeting at the faintest whisper of the summer wind ; others, with no less warmth yet greater dignity, would bend with grace and stateliness ; while some, distant most of all, yet not unkind, would show their beauty only to those who cared to seek them out. Flowers, old-fashioned, yet not on that account forgotten, should fringe the meanest path, that even the lowliest bloom might join in the universal cry of " Salve " to the stranger at the gates.

And that the flowers' farewell should be no less real, I would have plants full of fair blossom from the entrance to the exit of the garden, that there might come to the departing friend a " Vale " all full of fragrant breath. On the woodland fringe, where wood and garden meet, soft-treading paths of Thyme would show the way to glades of gloom and solemn grandeur, where, at high noon, for the body there is shelter from the sun and melodious woodland music for the mind.

MY GARDEN OF DREAMS

No colour scheme should embarrass the border blossoms, seeding here and seeding there, orderless and without arrangement. Each should have its own sweet way, and the fittest alone survive. As a mind overwrought finds solace in soothing tears, as the blue sky seems bluer when the grey storm has passed, so there should be a grey border in the garden, that the pageant of brilliant blossom might seem the richer for its presence. For a garden that is merely a garden of colour fails to touch the heartstrings of Life, to appeal to the humanity that is strong in all of us. It should be, as it were, a world where light and gloom, sunshine and shadow, go hand in hand. Unless a garden is built upon the foundation stone of sympathy, it is foredoomed to fail. Thus and thus only can it be attuned to the subtle working of the mind, giving according to the demand made upon it. A good garden is like a good book : the leaves and flowers, like print and pages, are but an earnest of finer things. It is only by close companionship that one comes to know, unconsciously perhaps, of the real joy that is within.

CHAPTER XVI

VARIETY IN THE FLOWER GARDEN

We may grow certain plants season after season and become firmly of opinion that there is nothing to excel them.

NONE can deny the charm of variety in a garden, especially when it leads to the inclusion of good plants not commonly grown. Now there are many plants remarkable for their beauty, either of flowers or foliage, particularly well suited to the embellishment of the flower garden during the summer months; plants, too, that are not at all generally made use of for this purpose. There is a woeful monotony about the appearance of many flower gardens, and by these I mean gardens of summer half-hardy flowers. Year in, year out, we find similar plants used. The designs are perhaps altered and the colours arranged differently, but the general effect is still much the same. Why this should be is not easily explained. It often happens, however, that we may grow certain plants season after season, and so become firmly of opinion that there is nothing to excel them. Partly for this reason, partly because we are too lazily inclined to search for fresh ideas, or too fearful of the results of growing fresh plants, we are content to rely on the same

VARIETY IN THE FLOWER GARDEN

flowers this year as we did last year, and finally become victims of a narrow conservatism that is as objectionable in gardening as in other spheres.

As the weakly member of a family is generally favoured and petted more than those better able to look after themselves, so it happens that a delicate plant, somewhat more than usually difficult of cultivation, fills a warmer corner in the heart of its grower than those needing a minimum of care. Probably some of the plants I shall mention here will be found to need rather closer attention than those the gardener is more familiar with, but they will fully repay whatever little extra care their growing may involve by their conspicuously fresh colours and handsome foliage.

How seldom do we come across the *Solanums* planted out in the summer garden of flowers, those quaint members of the Potato family that have various claims to distinction! Yet many of them are admirably suited to this purpose, and have a striking and uncommon appearance. One having a name that no plant ought to be burdened with—namely, *Solanum Warscewiczii*—has large, deeply-lobed leaves, and the midribs and stem are covered with red prickles. There is nothing else in the plant world quite like it, but these points do not complete its claim to consideration. Its large white flowers are freely produced. *Solanum robustum*, that does credit to its specific name by growing 3 feet or 4 feet high, also lends itself well to outdoor planting for

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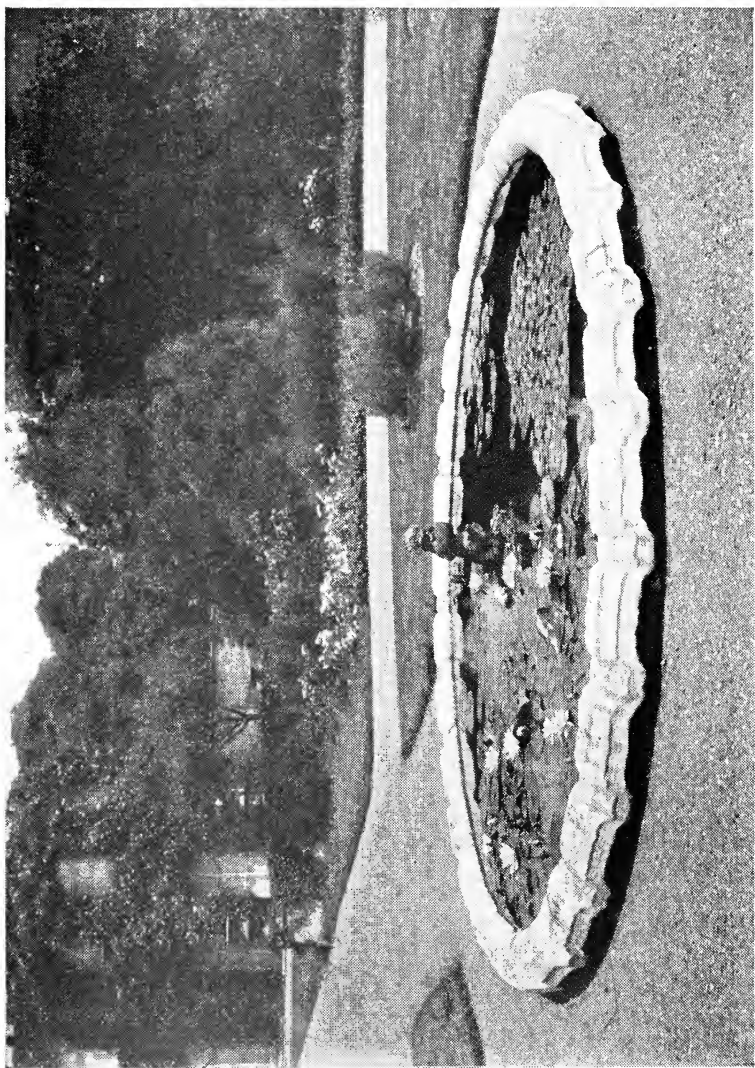
the summer months. It has rather large, prickly leaves, green above and grey beneath ; the flowers are white, arranged in clusters. A very pretty *Solanum*, with the descriptive names of *ciliatum macrocarpum*, sometimes seen in greenhouses and easily raised from seed, has attractive orange-red fruits following quickly after the fading flowers. It is often made use of in gardens in northern France for summer flower beds, and I have no doubt would prove equally satisfactory here.

There are two *Fuchsias* that I should like to mention—namely, *fulgens* and *macrostemma gracilis*. I am sorry the plants with which I hoped duly to impress the home gardener should have such out-of-the-way names, but the reader must believe that the more unpronounceable the name the more uncommon the plant ! I will take upon myself to mention only those that are of merit as well as uncommon. *Fuchsia fulgens* has scarlet flowers and large leaves that have greater claims to notice than the ordinary *Fuchsia* foliage. *Macrostemma gracilis* is a slender, graceful plant with purple and scarlet blooms. The best way to increase these is by means of cuttings, which are very easily obtained in spring from old plants potted up in autumn and kept under glass for the winter.

What could be more attractive than a flower bed filled with *Abutilons* of variously coloured leaves, the handsome variety known as *Thompsoni* forming the chief attraction ? They are not difficult to grow from cuttings inserted early in the year, for these root readily



THE LOVELY WHITE NARCISSUS WATERWITCH, MASSED IN THE WILD GARDEN



A LITTLE WATER LILY POND

VARIETY IN THE FLOWER GARDEN

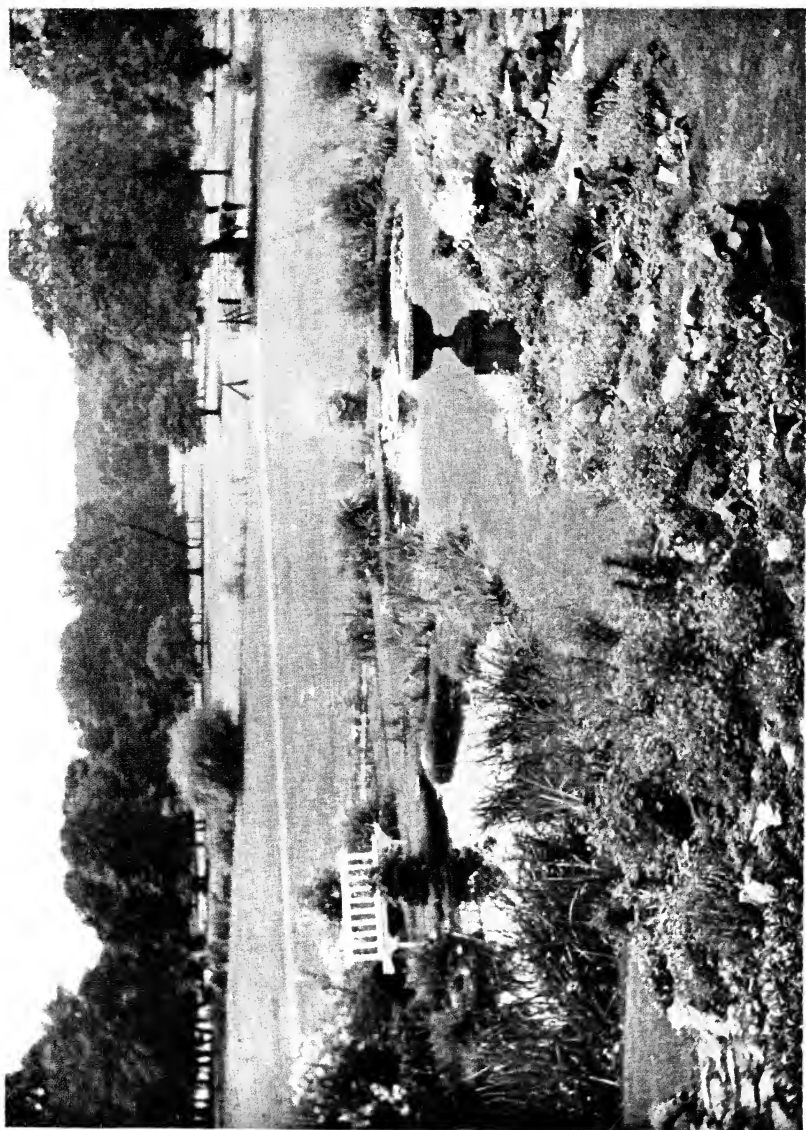
enough in a closed case in a warm greenhouse. The best white *Abutilon* is appropriately enough called *Boule de Neige*, while *Golden Fleece*, *Sanglant*, and *Anna Crozy* are a good yellow, red and rosy purple respectively. *Acacia*—or, if you choose, *Albizzia lophantha*, since this plant acknowledges either name—is a charming kind for the flower garden, despite the fact that it relies for its powers of fascination on leaves alone. These are very beautiful, with elegant little leaflets, or, to please such readers as are of a botanical turn of mind, and may, therefore, be presumed to be read in their terms, let me give them their proper designation and call them bipinnate. In growing this *Acacia* from seed, it is astonishing to mark its rapid progress in the greenhouse.

In *Eulalia japonica* we have a fine ornamental plant, hardy in the south of England; it may, however, be grown in flower pots, to be planted out of doors during the summer months in less favourable localities. Two attractive varieties are in cultivation—*foliis striatis*, having a cream coloured line down the centre of each leaf, and *zebrina*, in which the leaves are covered with green markings. The *Garland Flower* (*Hedychium gardenianum*) to those who are acquainted with it, is probably more familiar as a greenhouse than as an outdoor plant. It may, however, be used with advantage out of doors, especially if it can have a flower bed all to itself. The sweetly scented flowers are borne in large spikes, and are remarkably handsome. In autumn the roots

THE GARDEN AT HOME

of *Hedychium*, like those of *Canna*, should be lifted and stored away. This is the safest plan to follow, though in warm localities they are often left outside during winter and covered with some protecting material.

The Blue Marguerite (*Agatheæ cælestis*) is not so generally planted in the outdoor garden for a summer display as it deserves to be. Although small it is pretty, and may either be used as a groundwork for large plants or allowed to have a small bed to itself; it is increased by cuttings and seeds. The Blue *Salvia* (*Salvia patens*) and the Scarlet *Salvia* (*splendens*) provide agreeable variety among the orthodox beds and borders. The roots of the blue *Salvia* are tuberous, and, therefore, have to be stored away during the winter, like *Dahlia* roots. This is a lovely late summer flower that is cherished everywhere it is grown, and this is more than one can say for the Scarlet *Salvia*, which is often and variously—poor thing!—decried as loud, vulgar, glaring, flamboyant, and so on, throughout a whole string of objectionable adjectives. One may increase the stock by taking cuttings in spring after the roots have started into growth in the greenhouse. Cuttings, too, are taken of the Scarlet *Salvia* at the same time. *Salvia coccinea*, with dark foliage and flowers that, for a wonder, are as red or almost as red as its name denotes, and *Grahami*, that differs in blooming rather later and having blossoms of a lighter shade, are not only out of the common but they are very useful.



ROCK AND POOL GARDEN, SHOREHAM COTTAGE, KENT

VARIETY IN THE FLOWER GARDEN

Some kinds of Flax are elegant plants, with showy flowers, and having these none too common qualities, are not to be neglected. *Linum grandiflorum rubrum*, with bright red blossoms, probably every gardener knows. *Linum perenne* and *Linum narbonense* have blue blossoms; the latter is particularly fine, having flowers of light blue veined with violet.

Gaura Lindheimeri (how unfortunate am I in my choice of names!), a plant growing about 3 feet high, and bearing long arching spikes of white blossom, is seldom heard of. Nevertheless it is well worth growing, and commingling with a mass of red "Geraniums" gives an effect that is not despised by many up-to-date gardeners. *Streptosolon Jamesoni*, with brilliant orange-red blooms—a plant, by the by, that captivated me, as I have seen it in Riviera gardens, where, often enough, it is trained against white-walled houses with gorgeous effect—if allowed to grow freely, becomes an object worthy of deep admiration, and forms a striking plant for the centre of a large flower bed. There are other plants well suited to the summer garden, but since I have still far to go, and none too many pages in which to fulfil my mission, I will conclude with a brief mention of some of the most noteworthy still awaiting notice: the Plantain Lily (*Funkia Sieboldi*), with handsome leaves and lilac-purple blossom; *Begonia worthiana*, with orange-scarlet flowers; and the tall-growing perennial *Lobelias, cardinalis*, and *fulgens*.

CHAPTER XVII

FLOWERS FOR CUTTING

Those to whom one flower is very much like another may soon rob a garden of its charm if given free play with a pair of scissors.

I GRUDGE the house every flower that is cut from the garden, and I am sure every true flower lover is no whit less reasonable. But to be heterodox oneself is not always to be able to persuade others that one is in the right. After all, it is a poor garden that cannot furnish enough flowers to grace itself and spare some for the home as well. It is, I admit, altogether delightful to have flowers in the house, but—so it seems to me—it is far more satisfactory to see them on the plants. One misses them more than ever if they are cut without care by stranger hands. The gardener knows which he can best spare, but those to whom one flower is very much like another may soon rob a garden of its charm if given free play with a pair of scissors. To watch the opening of a flower, the passing of a bud from babyhood to the prime of flowerhood, to anticipate its opening, to hazard a date when it shall be at its best and to compare this year's date of opening with that of last year—such things

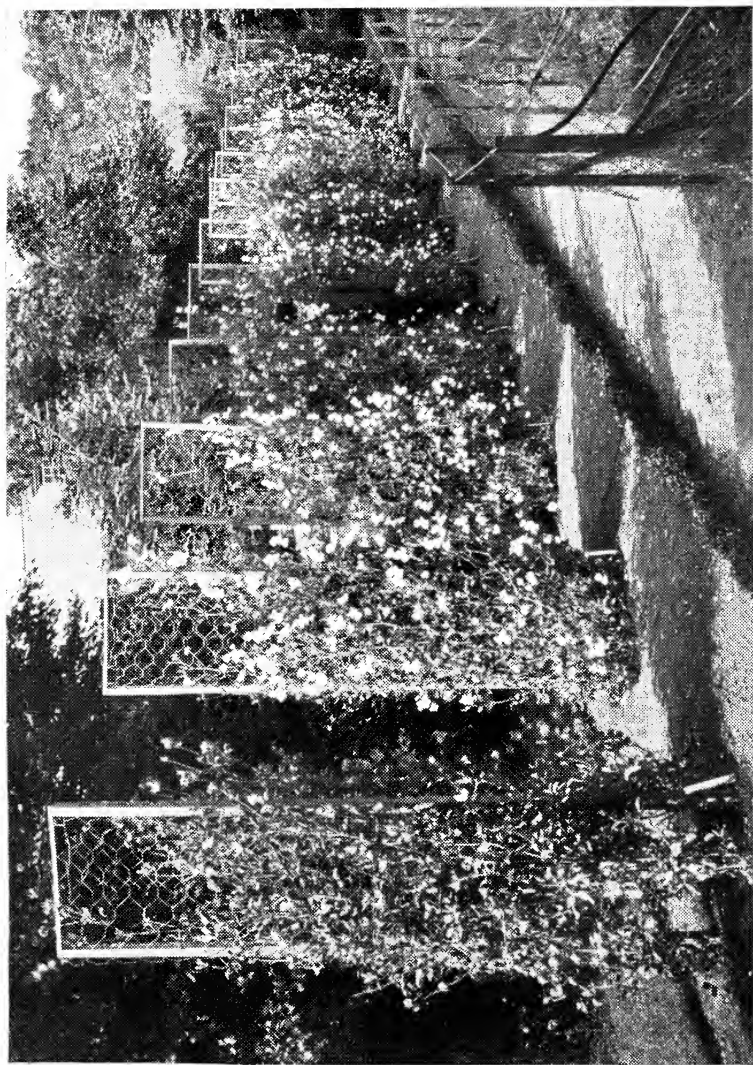


Photo: Miss Thomson

SPLENDID CLUMPS OF SWEET PEAS AT EDROM MANSE, BERWICKSHIRE



STANDARDS OF ROSE FISHER HOLMES

FLOWERS FOR CUTTING

as these bring delight to the gardener's soul and infinite joy to his gardening. So, fair reader, if you be not the gardener, pray ask of him who is before you pluck wantonly of the garden's best.

Despite all we may say to the contrary, there must be flowers in the home, and the only thing to do is to have a garden so full of bloom that there may be sufficient to delight the gardener at his table and leave plenty to keep the garden gay. The ideal way to provide a supply of cut flowers is to have a reserve border, where plants are grown solely to give blossoms for gathering. But those of us who have no room for such a luxury must choose with scrupulous care, plant really well and grow really finely if an onslaught of the scissors is infallible and to be combated with success. One well-grown plant of the right sort will yield a bigger harvest of blossom than half a dozen indifferently grown.

Such flowers as Roses, Sweet Peas, Carnations from seed, Wallflowers, and Daffodils we must have without doubt, for they are among the most delightful of all for gathering; but there are many more, and as most of them are showy plants, it may be worth while to fill the mixed border with them when the home vases are more than usually insistent.

Opening with the later Daffodils is the Leopard's Bane (*Doronicum Harpur Crewe*), with big yellow daisy-like flowers on long stems; it is quite invaluable for gathering when there is no great variety of open blossoms. Then

THE GARDEN AT HOME

come the gorgeous May-flowering Cottage and Darwin Tulips, with the loveliest flowers imaginable, in infinite variety of colouring, in perfect grace of form, and on tall, strong stems. Soon follow the Flag Irises, in purple, white, blue, yellow, and other shades ; and if it is urged against them that they last none too long when they are cut, it is in their favour that no flower excels them for vase decoration. Those who grow the double white Arabis in preference to the single one will be able to gather handfuls of its beautiful blossoms, for all the world like miniature Stocks, though, alas ! without their delicious scent.

June is Pæony time, and no flower fills a bowl more gorgeously than the Pæony, whether represented by the single varieties with golden stamens for centre, or the double sorts, full of flaming petals with a fragrance peculiarly their own. Poppies, for those who love to cull them, are available in wonderful variety ; most striking of all are the giant Oriental sorts in crimson, scarlet, salmon, and pink, though most enchanting perhaps are the Iceland and Shirley Poppies, beloved of those who exhibit decorative tables at flower shows. They are very gay while they last, but their beauty quickly fades. Lupins I shall pass by, for their flowers soon fall ; and, even if they did not, parted from the plants their charm is lost. So it is with the perennial Larkspurs or Delphiniums—together bewitching on the plants, their tall spires rising in real flower majesty, but gathered, alas ! they have no soul.

FLOWERS FOR CUTTING

The double varieties of *Geum* and *Potentilla* are quite charming when cut, the branching stems enabling one to arrange them with the greatest ease. Then the *Heuchera*, especially the newer sorts, such as *Rosamunde*, with tall stems and masses of tiny blossom, is invaluable. *Pyrethrums*, both single and double, are admirable cut flowers and the homely *London Pride* (*Saxifraga umbrosa*) yields a profusion of its graceful spikes of pink-white blossom. *Columbine* or *Aquilegia* is scarcely surpassed as a flower for cutting—at least in grace of form ; and for long life when cut, what is there to excel the *Summer Marguerite*, or *Shasta Daisy* (*Chrysanthemum maximum*), in one of its giant-stemmed varieties—e.g. *King Edward*, *Mrs. Cocker*, or *Mrs. C. Daniels* ?

The Chalk Plant (*Gypsophila paniculata*) is renowned for its excellence as a cut flower ; the elegant masses of bloom last long in beauty, and are indispensable for mixing with those of brighter colouring. The lavender blue *Scabious* (*Scabiosa caucasica*), the Golden Tick-seed (*Coreopsis grandiflora*), the Goat's Beard (*Spiræa Aruncus*), the Blanket Flower or *Gaillardia*, the bright yellow *Helenium pumilum magnificum*, the Sea Holly (*Eryngium*), and Globe Thistle (*Echinops Ritro*), with stiff, bristly flower heads, the double white *Achillea* called *The Pearl*, *Spiræas* in variety, and *Meadow Rue* (*Thalictrum aquilegiaefolium*) are all first rate summer flowers for gathering.

Among roses one must choose, above all, those that

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are long-stemmed, for only these show really well when cut and placed in bowls and vases—such, for instance, as Pharisæer, salmon rose ; Betty, rose and old gold ; Dorothy Page Roberts, pink ; Madame Hoste, cream ; Mme. Antoine Mari, lilac rose and white ; Madame Abel Chatenay, salmon ; Lady Ashtown, rose-pink ; Madame Mélanie Soupert, peach shades ; Molly Sharman Crawford, white ; Mme. Léon Pain, white, with orange-yellow centre ; Mrs. E. G. Hill, pink and red ; Mrs. Theodore Roosevelt, flesh-pink ; Avoca, scarlet crimson ; Conrad F. Meyer, pink ; and Mme. Alfred Carrière, white.

As summer wanes such as these are available : Japanese Anemones, Golden Rods, Starworts or Michaelmas Daisies, Pentstemons, especially the variety Newbury Gem, Moon Daisy (*Pyrethrum uliginosum*), perennial Sunflowers—e.g. Miss Mellish and H. G. Moon—the Coneflower (*Rudbeckia*), especially the double yellow variety Golden Glow, Montbretias, Tiger Lilies, and Japanese Lilies, to say nothing of September Roses. I have not mentioned Stocks and Asters, Snapdragons, outdoor Chrysanthemums, Gladioli, Pinks, Sea Lavender or Statice, or Lavender, yet all rank high as flowers to grow for cutting.

Then, among annuals, are there not Love-in-a-Mist and Candytuft, *Nemesia* and *Mignonette*, and of shrubby plants, the exquisite trails of *Polygonum baldschuanicum*, a most rampant and easily grown twiner, the flower bunches of *Clematis Flammula* in August and in autumn the silky fluffiness of *Traveller's Joy* ?

CHAPTER XVIII

UP-TO-DATE VARIETIES OF OLD-FASHIONED FLOWERS

One may still grow old-world kinds of plants in the form of up-to-date varieties.

WHY does the average amateur gardener grow the old-fashioned, saw-edged, split-blossomed Carnations that did duty years ago, when there are dozens of other and better sorts to choose from? Why does he grow roses that only bloom once a year when he might just as easily (and often far more easily) grow others that blossom twice or three times in one summer? Why does he grow the white Rock Cress with single flowers when the double variety is a far worthier thing? Why does he still grow old-fashioned magenta-coloured Phloxes when there are scores of better sorts in pure and glowing colours? Why does he grow the dwarf, graceless Tulips that did duty a generation ago and exclude from his collection the exquisitely beautiful and incomparably graceful Darwin and Cottage varieties that last in bloom as long again? Why—but who can tell? Possibly because he is a conservative being, who dislikes discarding old flowers for new; probably because he is unaware how old-fashioned his varieties are, and ignorant of the many improvements

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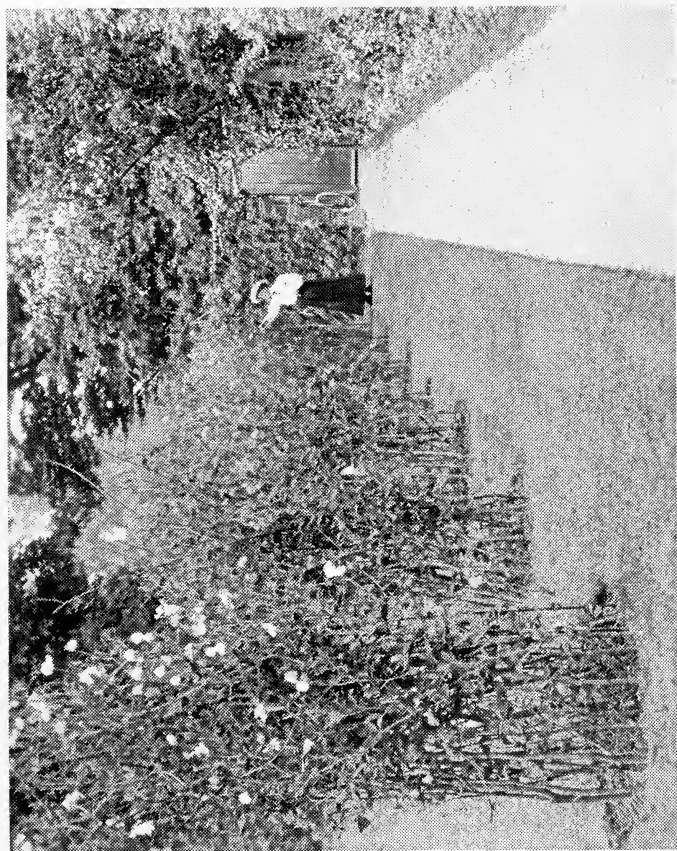
that have been introduced for garden lovers. Yet he may still grow the same old-world kinds of plants with all the advantage that up-to-date varieties possess.

Let me draw attention to some of the good things many amateurs have missed. All of us grow the old white Cottage Lily (*Lilium candidum*), and many of us know, if we do not grow, the striking scarlet Martagon Lily called *chalcedonicum* ; but how comparatively few gardens contain the exquisite fawn-coloured Lily called *testaceum*, that originated, it is supposed, by a commingling of the red and the white ! It is a lovely plant, 4 feet or so high, and graceful in the extreme ; a planting of half a dozen or a dozen bulbs together produce a garden picture that long lingers in the memory. *Lilium elegans*, of small stature but of big blooms, is tolerably common, far commoner, unfortunately, than its variety Prince of Orange, which eclipses it altogether and makes a magnificent show. The old Martagon Lily, with small, dull purple blossoms is perhaps not particularly striking ; but who can justly portray the fascination of its white variety ? This is one of the loveliest little Lilies I know. The golden-rayed Lily of Japan (*auratum*) is in almost everyone's garden, yet one may go a day's march without finding those richly-coloured varieties that put the typical kind in the shade altogether. I refer to *rubrovittatum* and *platyphyllum*, both gorgeously coloured.

The Montbretia, that gives a most welcome harvest of orange-yellow blossom in August, when many flowers



ROSE CYNTHIA FORDE



CLUMPS OF SWEET PEAS IN A HAMPSHIRE GARDEN

UP-TO-DATE OLD-FASHIONED FLOWERS

begin to fade, is well known and widely planted, but only in the shape of the old kind, *crocusmaeflora*. I frankly admit that this is a very delightful flower, but it is excelled in splendour by some of the newer sorts, such as *George Davison*, *Germania*, *Etoile de feu*, and others. I must allow—alas!—that they cost a little more, but they are well worth introducing to the notice of the home gardener.

There are plenty of lovely Daffodils that scarcely anyone but an enthusiastic Daffodiller grows; yet the home gardener still plants the old time favourites (or buys them mixed, which is deplorable), sublimely ignorant of the spring feasts of loveliness he is missing. The good varieties are so numerous that I shall not attempt to detail them, but perhaps my reference will drive the reader to a good bulb catalogue when planting time comes, and the next spring make him sigh for the joys he has previously missed. The old purple *Flag* or *German Iris* is undoubtedly a glorious flower; but even higher praise is merited by some of those wonderful blooms in yellow and gold and white and brown and other fascinating shades that are now to be had. A few of them would add a fresh delight to the home garden in May and June.

Who would be without *Sweet Williams* in his garden? Or, again, without *Snapdragons*? Yet those that are commonly seen are depressing enough. The old-fashioned *Sweet William*, with small, "spotty",

THE GARDEN AT HOME

flowers, is hopelessly out of date; so, too, is the magenta-coloured Snapdragon. They are not worth growing when one may have crimson and scarlet and salmon and rose Sweet Williams, the colours true and clear, and Snapdragons in yellow, lemon, pink, orange-red, and many other most bewitching colour shades. And if they do cost a little more, what does it all amount to? Merely a penny or two on a packet, for, of course, they are grown from seed.

Why grow the old red Bee Balm (*Monarda didyma*), when the new variety called Cambridge Scarlet, while preserving the charm of fragrant foliage, has brighter and finer flowers? There is no reason why one should. The stiff florist's Asters are altogether lacking in the freedom and joyousness of the Ostrich Plume and Comet varieties, with large, loose-petalled flowers that are a delight to possess. It is merely a matter of choosing the right seeds. The common blue and white Lupins are ubiquitous, and, beautiful though they are, that is no reason why one should not grow the lovely rose-coloured *Moerheimi* or the yellow one called Somerset.

What a galaxy of colouring is now found among the perennial Poppies! No longer need one's collection include the dingy colours of which there are plenty to be had, especially by those who buy cheap seed or cheap seedlings. Such exquisite varieties as Mrs. Perry, orange apricot, Princess Ena, orange salmon, Goliath, scarlet, Lady Roscoe, salmon, and Oriental King, crimson, are but a few of the many

UP-TO-DATE OLD-FASHIONED FLOWERS

now offered by florists. I wonder if anyone still grows the original Alkanet (*Anchusa italica*), when the two varieties Dropmore, deep blue, and Opal, light blue, are to be had? I hope not, for the garden's sake.

What lovely things there now are among the *Spiræas*, so lovely that it is a thousand pities they are not more widely known! I refer especially to the newer forms of *Spiræa* (or, more correctly, *Astilbe*) *Arendsi*—e.g. Pink Pearl, Salmon Queen, and others, all growing 5 feet or 6 feet high and bearing flower plumes in shades of rose, pink, or white. I could never bring myself to decry the charming old Scarlet Geum (or even to neglect it for the apricot-coloured sorts that do not bloom so freely), for it is one of the most prized among hardy flowers; but I do think the home garden ought to grow the still finer variety called Mrs. Bradshaw.

All who value blue-flowered plants must surely have made the acquaintance of the Gromwell (*Lithospermum prostratum*), but this, beautiful though it is, is now eclipsed by the newer sort called Heavenly Blue. In face of such a name it would be sad if it were not; for what flower could withstand a rival named Heavenly Blue? Not even the old Grape Hyacinth (*Muscari*), which has been supplanted in all up-to-date gardens by a new-comer with this high falutin' name. But we should not grumble too much at the name, perhaps, when it distinguishes a beautiful flower. I might run through the whole gamut of hardy flowers and point out new

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varieties that are well worthy, if not altogether to supersede, at least to be grown in company with, the old ones. I may have said enough to raise an interest in the newer flowers in the bosom of the home gardener, and to point the right way of his going.

Probably the chief reason why so many home gardens are filled with inferior flower varieties is that the owner buys cheap "stuff," either in the shape of seed or seedlings or grown plants. Now that is not the way to stock one's garden to the best advantage. It is an easy matter to increase the majority of hardy flowers, so the plan I recommend is not to buy fifty inferior sorts, but rather to invest the money in half a dozen superior ones. This plan repays one tenfold in the end, for by one of the chief methods of propagation, by cuttings, seeds, or division, quite a large stock of the new-comer can be worked up in a season or two. Thus, in time, the home garden will be filled from end to end with the best flowers, and there will be no room for those of inferior merit. If the gardener thinks the time will lag while the plants are growing and the stock increasing, little can he know of the joys of "striking" cuttings, of sowing seeds and watching the seedlings develop. Why, half the joy of flower-growing is found in filling beds and borders with home-grown seedlings. They are always nearer and dearer to one's affections than those that are bought.

CHAPTER XIX

MEMORY AND FRIENDSHIP GARDENS

How small a thing will conjure up dreams—the fragrance of a rose, the purple mist of a group of Starworts, the shimmer of Golden Rod in the autumn sunshine !

THERE is something very fascinating even about the thoughts of a garden full of plants grown for the sake of the associations their presence conjures up, whether they be memories of days of youth, when hope ran high and was undismayed ; of home days fragrant with Lavender and scented linen and redolent of the tender touch of loving hands ; of holidays that stir the muse of pleasant recollection ; or of friends, now widely scattered, that once in common bond foregathered. Such a garden may come even to possess a hallowed significance for its planter, giving life to sacred thoughts, which, softened by the lapse of time, fill the mind with “ sweetest melancholy.”

I am not sure that memory gardens are calculated to give pleasure to those who are fast growing old ; for then, are memories always sweet ? May not they rise, unwelcome spectres of a happy past, holding up the bright lamp of youth to the flickering candle of old age ? Was I right, I wonder when I wrote :

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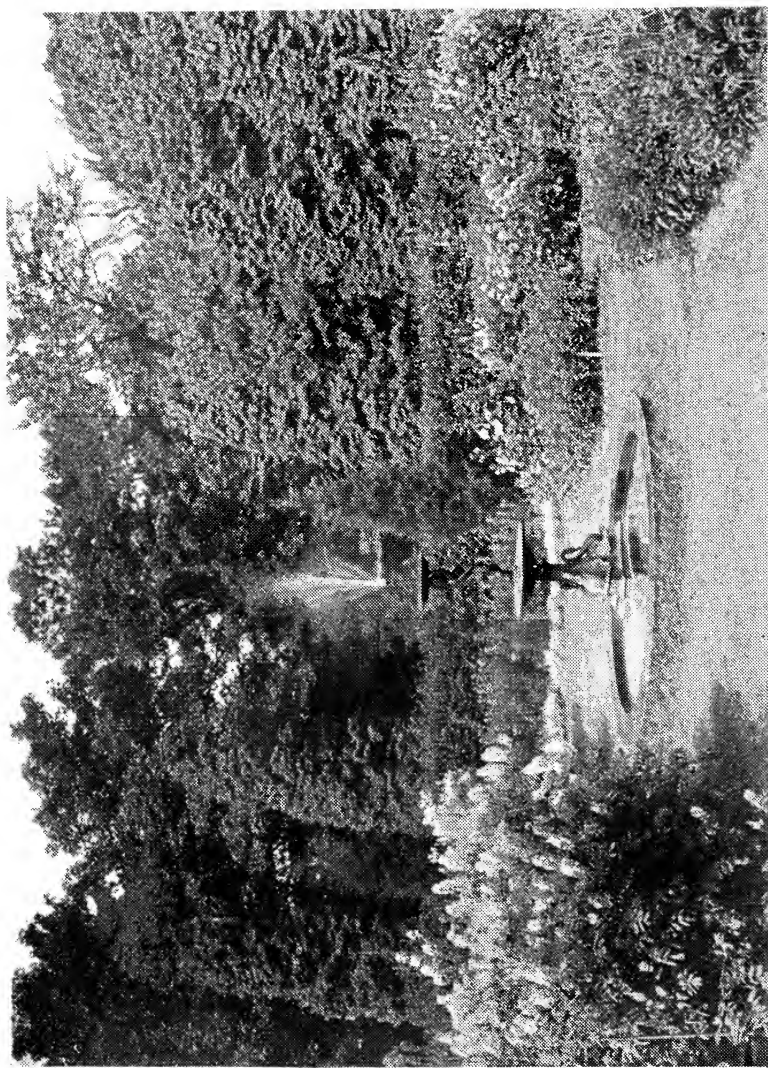
“ Oh ! Memory mocks in phantom dreams
Of youth long sped ;
As though 'twere yesterday it seems—
Yet years are dead.

‘ Oh ! Memory conjures dulcet thought
Of happier hours ;
The thorns to bring to life she sought
Among the flowers.

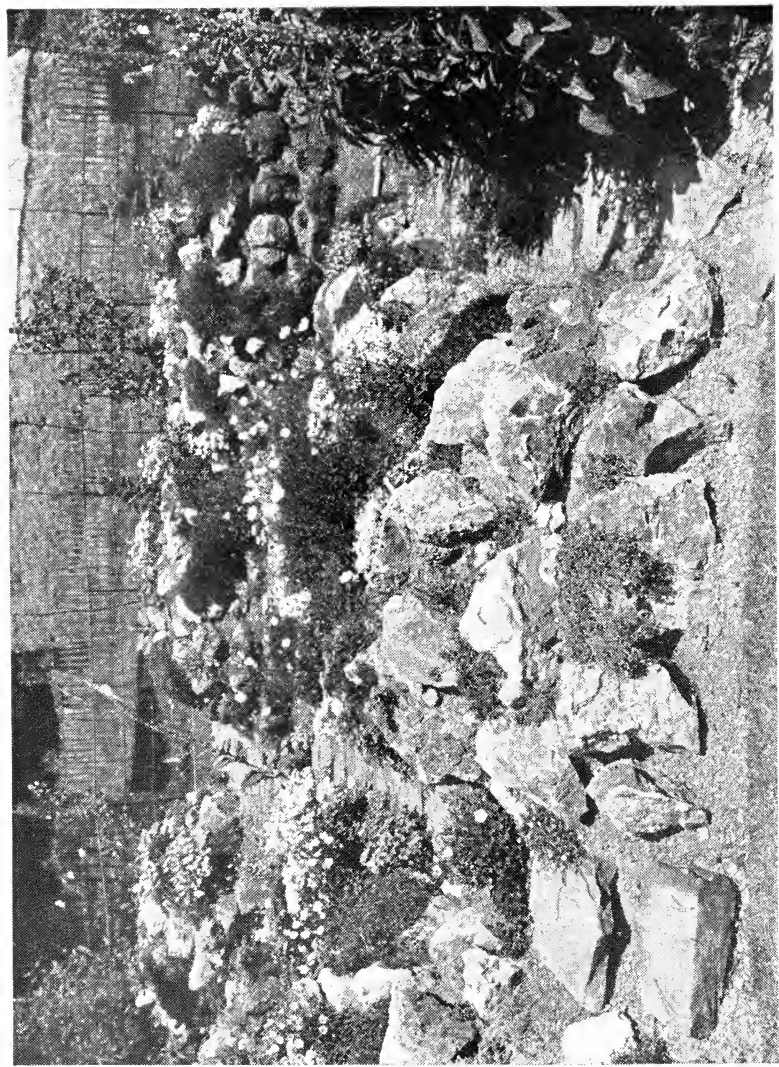
“ Dim not these agèd eyes with tears ;
My destiny
Is shaped ; lift not the veil of years,
Oh ! Memory ! ”

But we may all have gardens of friendship. Those of us who have pleasant moments to look back upon may care, in the fragrance of flowers or the sweet scent of leaves, or in gay and lovely blossom, to revive them in happy dreams, and live again, if only in precious moments, days that seem, through the veil of rose with which Time has cloaked them, to have been our very Never Never Land of Romance.

How small a thing will conjure up dreams—a sprig of Lavender, the fragrance of a rose, the purple mist of a group of Starworts, the shimmer of Golden Rod in the autumn sunshine, a leaf of Old Man or Southernwood, or sweet-scented Verbena ! In one finite moment one's thoughts span a seeming infinity of time, and dreams of other days enrapture us. We have all at some time or another begged a sprig of this or a spray of that from the garden of some dear friend or of some one with whom



"IT IS BEST TO SHELTER THEM IN A LITTLE PLOT ENCLOSED."



THE HOME ROCK GARDEN

MEMORY AND FRIENDSHIP GARDENS

acquaintance has ripened into friendship ; and how satisfying to think of the friends made through the common love of flowers ! How delightful to contemplate the bond thus wrought with leaf and blossom in friendship's name !

We have all of us memories of holidays spent in far corners of our own and other lands, and, in quiet moments, to live them again in sweet imagining, in the flower slips we gathered and coaxed into rooted plants, is one of the many delights of the garden of friendship and memory. Such a garden must grow slowly, for, like friends whose friendship counts, it shall entwine the more closely about our hearts as each flower season passes. Though old friends pass and new ones find us, the flowers they gave us linger on, and always, to the end, are with us. When old age claims them, we give them fresh life, and to the young will still cling the fragrance of the old ones that gave them birth.

All the plants that are cherished for association's sake should be gathered together, though they will never make any semblance of a show garden. For this reason it is best to shelter them in a little plot enclosed, and, that the boundaries may be in keeping, let the hedges be of Lavender and China Roses. In time the garden of memory and friendship will contain a most interesting collection of plants and flowers, and though the arrangement may count for nothing in the eye of an expert, seeing charm only in a border that is planned to an exact colour scheme, the owner, to whom alone this little garden

THE GARDEN AT HOME

matters, will read, as it were, between the lines and weave, with apparently quite prosaic material, love dreams and friendship lore of days of long ago.

In shady corners there may be wild Ferns from the West Country and from Wales ; in the sunshine the Alpen Rose and Edelweiss from the Alpine heights of the Bernese Oberland, miniature Daffodils from Spain, the exquisite Gentian from the Westmorland dales and the incomparable Gentianella from the Alps and Pyrenees ; scarlet Anemones from Riviera woods ; the rosy spires of Loosestrife from the upper reaches of the Thames, and countless others from gardens, great and small, all gathered in happy, careless days, when all was well with the world, or given with graciousness and open heart by strangers with whom one had nothing in common but simple love for lowly flowers.

CHAPTER XX

ROCK GARDENING

The surface must be irregular and the worker's skill will be revealed in such measure as he is able to impart a natural appearance to its irregularities.

It is rarely that the beginner in gardening attempts to make a rock garden, and in his forbearance he is really most wise. He has the impression that the skilful arrangement of rocks and the management of alpine plants is something altogether beyond his powers, and prefers first to learn wisdom among the more accommodating border plants. When a few years have passed, and he longs for other flower worlds to conquer, a little alpine garden—which has for long, perhaps always, held high place in his affections—comes persistently to mind. Memory charms with dreams of a rock-strewn bank flooded with drifts of lovely, lowly bloom; of rock fissures blossom-filled; of leafy tufts, with bright flowers spangled, on the dizzy heights of a miniature peak; of enticing stepping-stones that lead between dainty masses of leaf and flower, and, winding, disappear and reappear as one follows their lead. Then comes the decision to build, and the would-be rock garden maker, if he takes thought

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for the care of his plants, is at a loss to know how to proceed. And I have little consolation to offer. I could recommend books that have been written to show how alpine gardens should be arranged and planted, but beyond acquiring some knowledge of the principles that underlie the work the reader would be little the wiser. For the fact is, one cannot say choose stones of this shape and put them there, or stones of another shape and put them somewhere else. There is no particular kind of rock garden. One cannot make a design of it as one would of a rose plot and advise the reader to transfer it from paper to the ground. But in its inadaptability for orthodox design lies, I think, the chief charm of rock gardens, for each is so very much what the gardener is able to make it.

The surface must be irregular, and the worker's skill will be revealed in such measure as he is able to impart a natural appearance to its irregularities. It is not difficult to build an irregular rock garden, but it is difficult to build it naturally. One's first care should be for the plants, not for the rocks, for many alpine plants will grow just as well on the level ground, but there, they are certainly not so attractive as when grouped among rocks. It is thus apparent that the rocks are of secondary importance so far as the welfare of most alpine is concerned, and one must not exaggerate their value or use too many of them.

The uninitiated may be forgiven if, on seeing a flourish-

ROCK GARDENING

ing alpine garden, he imagines all the plants to be merely surface rooting, for that is the impression usually conveyed. Yet most alpine plants have long roots that go far in search of moisture, and this is the explanation of the rude health of many that appear to derive their sustenance from the bare rocks on which they are poised. The first care must be to provide a good depth of soil, without which the plants are bound to languish. Then the worker may exercise his skill in arranging the form of the garden, its little hills and valleys, bays and promontories, winding walks and stepping-stones, and, if a supply of water be available, little pools and rivulets, or a miniature mountain torrent tumbling over some rocky face. Such trifles as these give life to the alpine garden, and the manner of their disposal distinguishes one rockery from another. Providing the arrangement is on natural lines, and due consideration is given to the welfare of the plants, the actual design—if one may use the word in this connection—is not of such importance as in many other phases of gardening, for rock gardens differing totally in conception and arrangement may be equally praiseworthy.

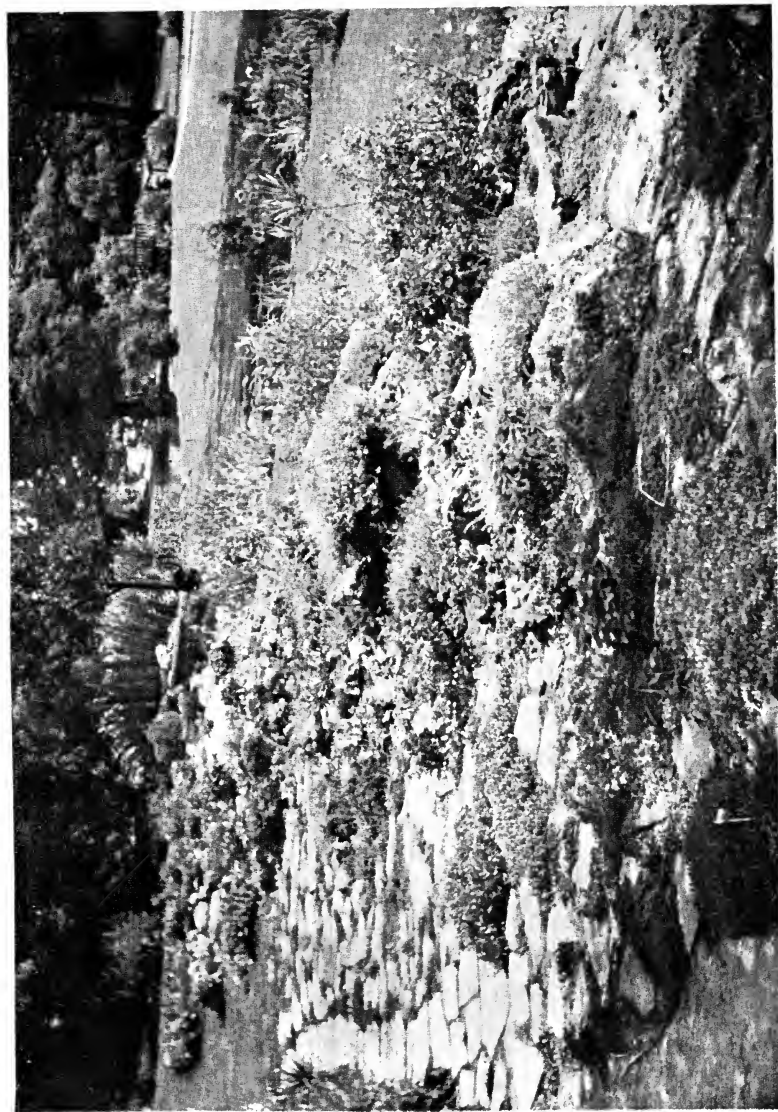
In disposing the stones, care should be taken to place them with due regard to their strata ; not, for instance, to stick up on end those that were horizontal in their natural bed ; in fact, the home gardener will do well not to stick up on end any stones at all, especially if his rock garden is quite a small one. The best way to make use

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of rocks of more or less conical shape is to embed them deeply (to the extent of one-third or one-half) in the soil, and so to arrange them that they slope towards the bank. Then all debris that collects on the rock surface, and all moisture that falls, will find its way to the roots of the plants. It is equally important, too, in disposing the rocks on a wide, sloping surface, to take care that one does not overhang another immediately beneath, otherwise the plants that are below may perish for want of moisture.

As in wall gardening so in making a rockery, it is necessary to ensure that the roots of each plant have direct access to plenty of soil, or they will certainly die in hot weather. Each crevice between the rocks should be filled with soil, so that the roots may be sustained as they make their way to the soil bed proper. The formation of "pockets" in the open spaces between the rocks allows one to make little beds of soil to suit certain special kinds of flowers, and gives the plants an opportunity of becoming well established. The use of smaller pieces of stone round about the "pockets" prevents the soil from being washed away—an eventuality that is likely to occur if the plants are put in sharply sloping ground. It is a mistake to make the rockery very steep, for the plants towards the top are apt to be left high and dry, while those at the base get more than their fair share of moisture.

The site available for the rock garden will largely



A ROCK AND PAVED GARDEN

ROCK GARDENING

determine its design. On flat ground it should not rise abruptly, but should begin in the form of a rock border with isolated, half-embedded stones cropping out here and there, and rise and become more rocky as it progresses. A charming effect is easily obtained when a dell or shallow dip in the ground can be utilised. A winding walk may then traverse the centre, formed of gravel if there be plenty of room, but consisting of a rude stone-paved path if the space be limited. On the banks that rise on either side the home gardener may dispose the rock plants with admirable effect. A rough bank may be the only available site ; if the bank is steep, the best thing to do is to make a wall rather than a rock garden, embedding the stones firmly in the bank, with plenty of soil between. A rough wall such as this may be made most beautiful by planting the crevices with Evergreen Candytuft, Aubrietia, Pinks, Wallflowers, Snapdragons, Saxifrages, and others.

Most alpines love the sunshine, so let the rock garden be in the open, away from tall or strong rooting trees, though preferably not on high ground, exposed to all the winds that blow. Alpines love a gritty, well-drained soil, so it is wise, when digging the land before the rocks are arranged, to mix in plenty of sand, brick rubble, and road grit. On ill-drained ground there will be many losses during the winter, not only with delicate plants, but those that in well-drained soil would have been quite happy.

I cannot attempt to give a long list of alpines, nor do

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I think it necessary, for the home gardener will do far better to begin with a few that give a maximum of blossom while needing a minimum of care. As his knowledge grows and his enthusiasm increases he will year by year add fresh treasures to his alpine garden, and soon discover their likes and dislikes. The double white Rock Cress (*Arabis albida*); the yellow Madwort (*Alyssum saxatile*); purple Rock Cress (*Aubrietia*) in several varieties, notably Pritchard's *Al*, Dr. Mules, Fire King, and Moerheimi; Evergreen Candytuft (*Iberis sempervirens*); *Saxifraga hypnoides* and *Wallacei*; Alpine Phlox (*Phlox subulata*), especially the varieties Vivid and G. F. Wilson, are all easily grown, and soon form large masses that are smothered in bloom in spring. They thrive in any position providing the roots are in good soil. The *Iberis* looks especially charming if planted at the top of a tall rock and allowed to fall over the face, which soon becomes draped in lovely greenery and in spring in exquisite bloom. The *Aubrietias* form perfect close-fitting carpets of grey leaf in a year or two, and cover a rock or mound most charmingly, while the *Saxifrages* are admirable for forming large patches between the rocks. The Alpine Pinks, especially *Dianthus alpinus*, *caesius*, and *deltoides*, look their best when perched on some rocky ledge, for the plants revel in sunshine if the roots are deep in soil. A charming grey-leaved creeping plant, that bears white blossom in June, is *Achillea umbellata*. It thrives with little care, although a well



SPRINGTIME IN THE ROCK GARDEN. EVERGREEN CANDYTUFT
(*IBERIS SEMPERVIRENS*) IN THE FOREGROUND



A WOODLAND PATH WITH BLUE-BELLS BORDERED

ROCK GARDENING

drained soil is most necessary. Possibly the beginner may not despise the homely London Pride and the pretty little Creeping Jenny, for both are very showy; they can easily be dispensed with as the choicer plants need more room, and the yellow Stonecrop (*Sedum acre*) is not to be despised.

The pretty Foam Flower (*Tiarella cordifolia*) is a charming plant, very showy when its stately little stems are covered in white bloom. The common Thrift (*Armeria vulgaris*) is certainly to be included as well as the giant form (*Armeria Cephalotes*) and the rush-leaved Thrift (*Armeria juncea*). Among the Bellflowers that are easily grown one must name *Campanula carpatica* and its white variety; *pusilla* and *garganica*, all most charming flowers. Then the blue Flax (*Linum narbonense*) and the alpine Wallflower (*Cheiranthus alpinus*), which delights in sunny fissures, deserve mention; while Snow in Summer (*Cerastium tomentosum*), with grey leaves and white flowers, and the yellow Fumitory (*Corydalis lutea*) soon form large tufts. Of the true Geraniums, with purplish flowers, one would choose *Endresi* and *sanguineum*; of alpine Pansies, *Viola cornuta* and its white variety, and *Viola gracilis*; of the Potentils, *argentea* and *hopwoodiana*. The Balearic Sandwort (*Arenaria balearica*) is an ideal creeping plant, forming a minute leaf tracery over half-shady rocks and stones, and is studded with tiny white blossom in early summer. First plant such as these, with a free grouping of Anemones

THE GARDEN AT HOME

blanda and apennina ; Daffodils in variety, and especially the miniature kinds Queen of Spain, *Bulbocodium* (Hoop Petticoat), and triandrus (Angel's Tears) ; the blue Squills or Scillas, the blue and white Glory of the Snow (*Chionodoxa Luciliæ*), Snowdrops, Snowflakes, Crocuses and Hepaticas, Forget-me-Nots and Primroses. With all these at his command the home gardener may, if he plant in late September, have a rock garden gay with blossom even the following spring and summer.

CHAPTER XXI

HARDY FLOWERS THAT DO NOT DISAPPOINT

Plants that are easily grown ought to figure largely in the home garden

A SUCCESSION of failures is calculated to depress and disconcert the most optimistic of amateurs, so it is as well perhaps to know of those plants that return the grower a sure and satisfactory reward for his labours. There are some that one simply cannot fail to grow, and these ought certainly to figure largely in the home garden. All the care they demand is that planting shall be done in late October or November, in soil that has been dug 18 inches deep. It is just as well to place them quite 2 feet apart (or they will soon be fighting each other for space), and to mix two or three spadefuls of rotted manure or a handful of bone-meal with the soil as the digging proceeds.

Foremost among them is the hardy Marguerite or summer Chrysanthemum or Shasta Daisy, as *Chrysanthemum maximum* is variously called. This hardy plant, growing $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet high, bears a profusion of large, white, gold-centred Daisy-like blooms in July and August. There are several varieties, differing chiefly in

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size of blossom, and among the best are those called King Edward, Mrs. C. Lowthian Bell, and Mrs. C. W. Daniels. These thrive and increase to such degree that the gardener is soon at his wit's end to know what to do with them, especially if his flower border is a small one.

The Moon Daisy (*Chrysanthemum* (*Pyrethrum*) *uliginosum*) is another hardy flower that needs only to be planted and left alone; the gardener's reward will be a vigorous clump 5 to 6 feet high that in September is smothered in white, green-centred blooms. The perennial Sunflowers, especially Miss Mellish, *cucumerifolius* and H. G. Moon, and the Perennial Asters or Michaelmas Daisies are not easily got rid of when once established in the border, and year after year all the attention that is needed on the gardener's part is to prevent their spreading beyond the lawful space.

The Perennial Poppies, with big handsome blooms in scarlet, red, pink, and numerous "art" shades, also thrive amazingly; but it is better, I think, to plant them in March than November, for sometimes they fail to show through the first spring, especially if in cold clayey soil. The old red *Geum coccineum*, 1 to 2 feet high, with Strawberry-like flowers freely produced in summer, is at once at home, and never fails in growth or blossom.

Lupins are among the plants that never fail to grow, and their spires of bloom in blue, white, purple

FLOWERS THAT DO NOT DISAPPOINT

or rose are fascinating in the months of May and June. The Larkspurs or Delphiniums, incomparably beautiful in high summer, are luckily also to be classed among the flowers that do not disappoint, especially if a few ashes are sprinkled among and around the succulent growths, when they show through early in the year, to keep the slugs away. There are two handsome Bellflowers (*Campanula persicifolia* and *grandis*) that never forget to put in an appearance, and delight the gardener in June. Both grow about 2 feet high. Then there are the broad-leaved Bellflower (*Campanula latifolia*) and its white variety that comes rather later ; both are taller, altogether more vigorous plants, that soon form fine clumps 4 or 5 feet high.

Phloxes, if in well-manured, well-tilled soil, and not too sunny a place, are equally satisfactory, and the garden borders in August would look very forlorn without them. After the first season, the Japanese Anemones that bloom throughout August and September never fail to produce their exquisite white or rose-coloured blossoms on long and graceful stems ; and how they thrive even in the shade ! It is as well to take precautions against slugs and snails, which appear to have an especial fondness for the handsome leafage, or this will become riddled with holes and altogether unsightly. An occasional sprinkling of lime and soot usually keeps these pests at bay, or recourse may be had to one of the many patent preparations now on the market.

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The Pampas Grass (*Gynerium argenteum*), that yields up its silvery plumes in September, increases in charm from year to year if left undisturbed, and all who have made painful acquaintance with its razor-edged leaves are not likely to be anxious to transplant it. The Goat's Beard (*Spiræa Aruncus*) is a most graceful and most attractive plant that can be relied upon to last in beauty for many years. The Golden-blossomed *Helenium pumilum magnificum*—to give a good plant its full title—is particularly handsome, blooming profusely in July and August, and it is the reverse of fastidious; the later flowering *Heleniums*, called respectively *autumnale striatum* and *cupreum* (the former growing 5 feet, the latter 2 feet high), are equally satisfactory. The French Lilac or Goat's Rue (*Galega Hartlandi*, *officinalis* and *officinalis alba*) grows without difficulty, soon forming a big bush. So, too, does the ornamental Plume Poppy (*Bocconia cordata*), with handsome leaves and plumes of cream-white August blossom. The white double-flowered Milfoil (*Achillea*, The Pearl) is as accommodating as any of those mentioned, and growing some 2 feet, bears its pretty little flowers most freely in July. The Day Lilies (*Hemerocallis*) are showy plants for June blossom, and have the merit of thriving in the shade where the soil remains moist, and so to their liking; *aurantiaca major* (apricot-coloured, 2 feet), *Dumortieri* (orange-brown, 1 foot), and *flava major* (yellow, 2 feet) are some of the best.



THE CARPATHIAN HAREBELL (*CAMPANULA CARPATICA*)



ROCKETS (*HESPERIS MATRONALIS*) IN THE MIXED BORDER

FLOWERS THAT DO NOT DISAPPOINT

One must, of course, include the Monkshood (*Aconitum Napellus*), for one could scarcely fail with it if one tried. Whether planted in shade or sunshine, it soon grows into a clump 4 or 5 feet high, and its rather dull blue flowers, if not handsome, are very welcome in August. The variety bicolor, blue and white, is more attractive though less frequently grown. A valuable dark-blue flowered Monkshood that blooms in September is called *Wilsoni*. The old scarlet *Lychnis* (*Lychnis chalcedonica*) is in almost every cottage garden, and so, obviously, is the reverse of fastidious. The same may be said of the red Bee Balm (*Monarda didyma*), which has the additional charm of fragrant leaves.

The Globe Flower (*Trollius*) that blooms in May (*asiaticus*, orange-red and Orange Globe, deep yellow, are the best), and loves a moist, half-shady spot ; the Cone-flowers (*Rudbeckia*) that are invaluable for late summer show ; the charming old Jacob's Ladder (*Polemonium Richardsoni*), a July study in elegant leaves and pale-blue blossoms, and the red Valerian (*Centranthus ruber*), that, like the wilding it is, flourishes especially well in seaside gardens, are all among the flowers that never disappoint. I think I might include the common Evening Primrose (*Oenothera lamarckiana*), for though the grown plant dies after blossoming, it leaves plenty of seedlings behind it to maintain its reputation the following season, and they in turn do likewise.

Among lowly plants suitable for edging one must

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include red and white Thrift (*Armeria*), *lauchiana* being the best red variety ; Pinks, Tufted Saxifrage, double and single white *Arabis*, *Aubrietia*, or Rock Cress, yellow Alyssum or Madwort, *Campanula carpatica*, a charming blue Bellflower, and the grey-leaved white-flowered *Cerastium tomentosum* or Snow in Summer.

CHAPTER XXII

FLOWERS FOR SHADE AND SUNSHINE

The shady border is often a failure because the soil is heavy,
in winter sodden and in summer sour.

THERE are really comparatively few flowers that prefer a shady spot, but what concerns us more is there are many that will thrive there. Part of every home garden, I suppose, is in shadow for most of the day, and, often enough, owing to a wrong selection of plants, the border in the shade proves an eyesore and a disappointment. Let us first consider those that really prefer the shade and may be unhappy in full sunshine.

The Japanese Anemones, single and double, in white and rose, are real shade lovers, although I cannot say that they will not thrive on sunny ground. There, however, the leaves are apt to lack size and lustre, and the flower stems to become dwarfed. But in the shade the leaves are large and healthily green, and the flower-crowned stems rise exquisitely. The blue and the white broad-leaved Bellflower (*Campanula latifolia* and variety *alba*) are perfect shade-loving plants, for is not the blue one at least found wild in the woodland depths of the home counties? These, while perhaps a little too coarse

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for the show border, form admirable clumps topped by large and attractive blossoms for the border in the shade, and there will command unstinted admiration. The ✓ Foxglove, although found growing wild, is a valued garden plant also, and for the shady border is scarcely surpassed; it has the great merit of perpetuating itself from self-sown seed. If the old flower heads are left alone until the seeds have fallen there will arise little colonies of seedlings in all sorts of unexpected places, even in the gravel walks and between the chinks of moss-grown stone.

Spiræas are lovely summer flowers and most of them thrive best in the shady garden, unless, if exposed to sunshine, their roots are in bog land or water. In an ordinary flower border they begin to look very miserable after a week's hot weather. The Goat's Beard (*Spiræa Aruncus*) is one of the loveliest of all, and I am happy in being able to give an illustration that does justice to this noble plant. Another handsome *Spiræa* is called *Davidi*, with tall spires of purplish blossom. Then the white Japanese *Spiræa (japonica)* and the two exquisite pink-blossomed sorts called Peach Blossom and Queen ✓ *Alexandra* are most attractive, too. The Globe Flowers (*Trollius*), that bear globe-shaped blooms of orange or yellow in May, are real shade lovers, and they make a ✓ charming succession to the Leopard's Bane (*Doronicum Harpur Crewe*), which has big, yellow, Daisy-like flowers in April. This, too, is essentially a plant for the border

FLOWERS FOR SHADE AND SUNSHINE

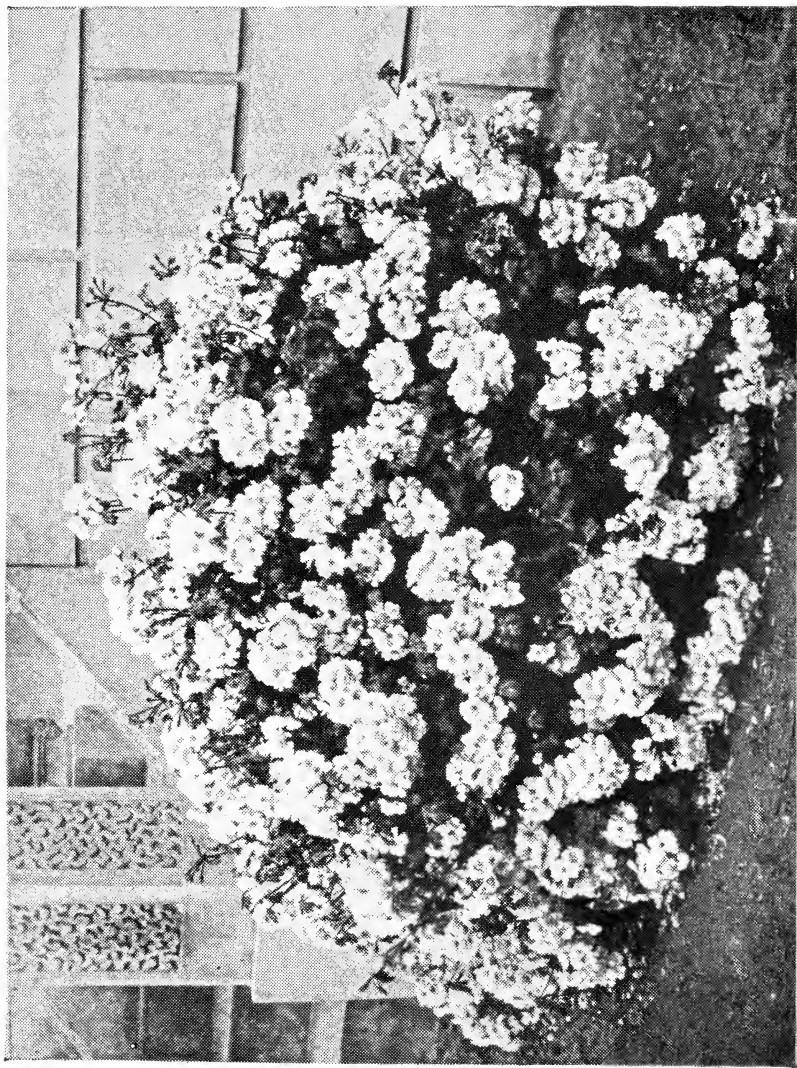
in the shadows. Forget-me-nots, as everyone knows, are thoroughly at home in the shade, and there, with the Foxgloves and Bluebells, they spread quickly and, once established, give the gardener no further trouble than that of pulling up the old plants to make way for the new. As well as the common wayside Primrose of our own country we may grow the Primrose of Japan (*Primula japonica*) on the shady border, for it, too, dislikes the sunshine. It is a far more striking plant than the native kind, for in May it sends up flowering stems 18 inches or 2 feet high, and crowns these with Primrose blossoms in lovely shades of colour, rose, pink, orange, yellow, and many more. How easy a matter it is to raise them from seed! If sown in summer in a box filled with sandy soil and put in a shady place, the seed soon germinates (or most of it, for some may lie dormant for weeks), and the seedlings will make sturdy little plants for permanent planting in September.

The border in half shade is just the place for Lily of the Valley, a precious flower that none should be without. Care should be taken not to put the "crowns" or roots closer together than 4 inches, or the plants will not have room to spread, and it is as well to know that they appreciate nothing more than an annual dressing of rotted manure or leaf mould, applied, say, in September. The old Solomon's Seal (*Polygonatum multiflorum*) is a charming plant, comparatively rarely seen in the home garden. Who can fail to admire the long arching growths,

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clothed with most attractive leafage, and from which the quaint white flowers depend? To our delight it loves best of all a border in the shade. The Plantain Lily (*Funkia*), with broad, handsome leaves, and in summer spikes of drooping lavender or white flowers; the Christmas Rose (*Helleborus niger*), and hardy Ferns, are all perfectly at home in the shade, and many gardeners would be the happier for their possession. These, together with London Pride (*Saxifraga umbrosa*) and Musk, both perfect little edging plants, Periwinkle, and St. John's Wort, are plants that really love the shade.

Prominent among those that will grow quite well on the shady border are Lupins in pink and purple, white and blue. In fact, I think the shady border is the best place for them, for there the flowers last longer than in the sunshine, and the leaves retain their green. The Flag Irises, especially the purple sort and the lovely white Florentine Iris, thrive excellently in company with the Lupins. Oriental Poppies are quite the feature of my shady border in May and early June, but their flower stems have an awkward habit of growing towards the light, and, unless carefully staked, become misshapen and unsightly. This characteristic is common to all plants in the shady border, though more pronounced in some than in others, and especially so, it seems, in the gorgeous Oriental Poppies. One would, of course, never hesitate to plant such vigorous growing things as Michaelmas Daisy, Moon Daisy (*Pyrethrum uliginosum*),



IVY-LEAVED GERANIUM IN A GARDEN IN JERSEY



A FLOWER BED PLANTED WITH LANTANA

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Golden Rod (*Solidago*), the giant *Helenium striatum*, the Coneflowers (especially *Rudbeckia Golden Glow*), and, anomalous though it may seem, even the perennial Sunflowers. The old Monkshood (*Aconitum Napellus*) thrives excellently out of the sunshine ; so, too, does the French Lilac or Goat's Rue (*Galega*), although it is inclined, perhaps, to get a little weedy. *Galega Hartlandi* is the one I recommend.

The Phlox, to which the garden in August owes so much of its beauty, is never happy in full sunshine. Some of the Lilies are thoroughly well satisfied with occasional sunny hours, and it must be a very shady border indeed on which the sun never shines. *Lilium tigrinum* (the Tiger Lily), *Lilium Hansonii* (yellow), the lovely scarlet Turk's Cap Lily (*pomponium*), the purple and white *Lilium Martagon*, and the Japanese *Lilium speciosum* (rose and white) are among those for which the shady border has no terrors. Columbines, of course (for may not they be found wild in company with the broad-leaved Bellflower ?), are first-rate flowers for planting in the shade ; and the Meadow Rue (*Thalictrum aquilegiaefolium*), a charming plant, with elegant leaves and tall plumes of creamy blossom, is not at all unhappy out of the sunshine. The broad-leaved *Megasea cordifolia*, with handsome though perhaps somewhat ungainly leaves and rose-pink flowers (in which there is a suspicion of purple), is to be recommended, together with Pæonies and Jacob's Ladder (*Polemonium*).

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While, as I have pointed out, there are few flowers that will not thrive on a sunny border, there are quite a number that will languish anywhere else. Among them may be mentioned Roses, Carnations, Pinks, Pyrethrums, Perennial Larkspurs, Spanish and English Irises, Hollyhocks, Sweet Peas, Sweet Williams, Snapdragons, Rock Rose (*Helianthemum*), the golden Tickseed (*Coreopsis grandiflora*), the Belladonna Lily, Dahlias, nearly all annual flowers (such as Mignonette, Love-in-a-Mist, Mallow, etc.), the charming and slender growing blue flax (*Linum perenne*), Geraniums, and most other bedding plants except tuberous Begonias, which are happy in half shade. The behaviour of Tufted Pansies in the sunshine is widely different from their behaviour out of it, and far more commendable. Wallflowers, Nasturtiums, and the Flame Flowers (*Kniphofia*) all love the sunshine.

Of spring-flowering bulbs, the Daffodil, Grape Hyacinth (*Muscari*), Snowdrop, Hyacinth, Winter Aconite, Star of Bethlehem (*Ornithogalum nutans*), the yellow-flowered Onion (*Allium Moly*), and Fritillary are suitable for planting in the shade, and the charming little hardy Cyclamen (*neapolitanum*), that blooms in autumn, is also happy there. But Tulips, Crocuses, and Anemones ought to be in the sunshine, for it is only there that the flowers open gaily. And how is a half-opened bloom to disclose its full beauty?

One of the reasons why the shady border is so often a dismal failure is because the soil is heavy and clayey,

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in winter sodden and in summer sour. If such soil were really thoroughly dug in early autumn, and wood ashes, lime and brick rubble, strawy manure, and road scrapings mixed with it, its mechanical condition would soon improve, and the plants I have enumerated would give it fresh and varied interest. If a fence bounds the border in the shade one may cover it with Ivy, or, better still, with those rampant climbers, Traveller's Joy (*Clematis Vitalba*) and *Polygonum baldschuanicum*, the latter of which wreaths itself in cream-white blossom twice a year. Or one may, without very much trouble, induce a red rose in the shape of *Reine Marie Henriette* to thrive there, a pink one in the giant *Conrad F. Meyer* or the old *Gloire de Dijon* in its own inimitable shades of cream and yellow.

CHAPTER XXIII

FASHIONABLE FLOWERS

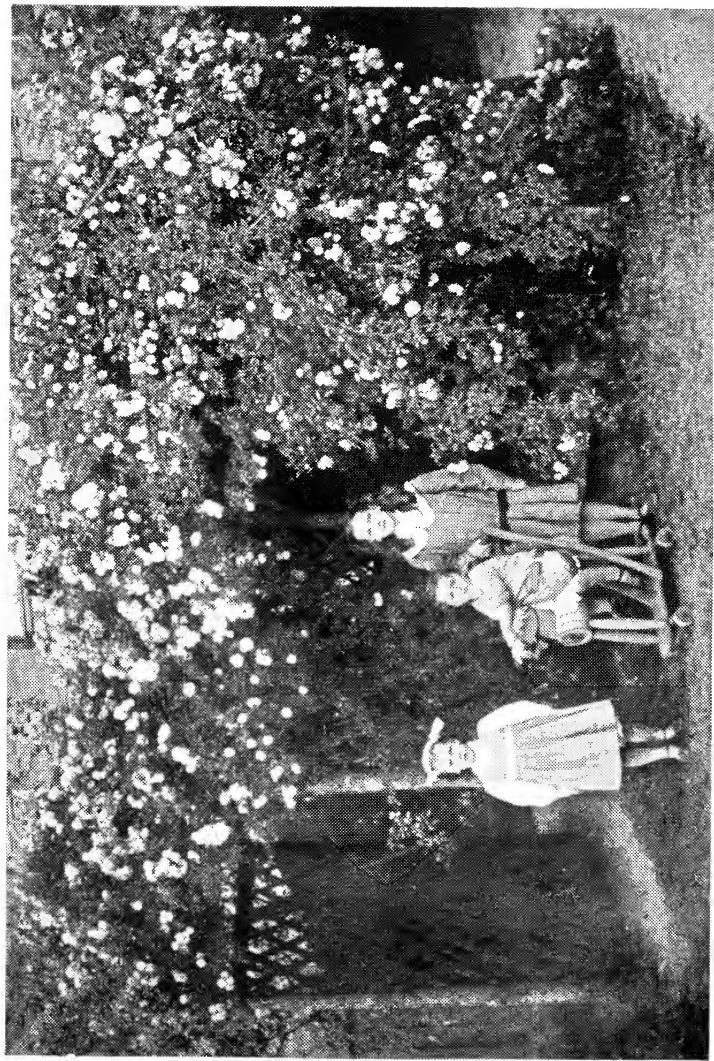
For the moment Sweet Peas and Carnations are indubitably fashionable. Even if they were not, the home gardener could dispense with neither.

THERE are fashions in flowers as in most other things, but luckily they show no violent change from year to year. It goes without saying that Roses are always fashionable, but two flowers that are now almost as popular are Carnations and Sweet Peas. All three were lauded as the Coronation flower by the respective societies that control their destinies and foster their development in public favour. Though the Rose was no doubt an easy first, the cultivation of the others received great encouragement. For the moment they are indubitably fashionable, and even if they were not, the home gardener who wishes to derive all possible pleasure from his garden can dispense neither with Carnations nor Sweet Peas.

Carnations are of such persuasive form, and delightfully varied colouring, that even if they lack the immortal grace of fragrance, which, alas! so many of them do, they still have a way of getting close to the gardener's heart, almost without his knowing it. That has been my



A GARDEN OF BUSH AND CLIMBING ROSES



AN ARBOUR OF ROSE DOROTHY PERKINS

FASHIONABLE FLOWERS

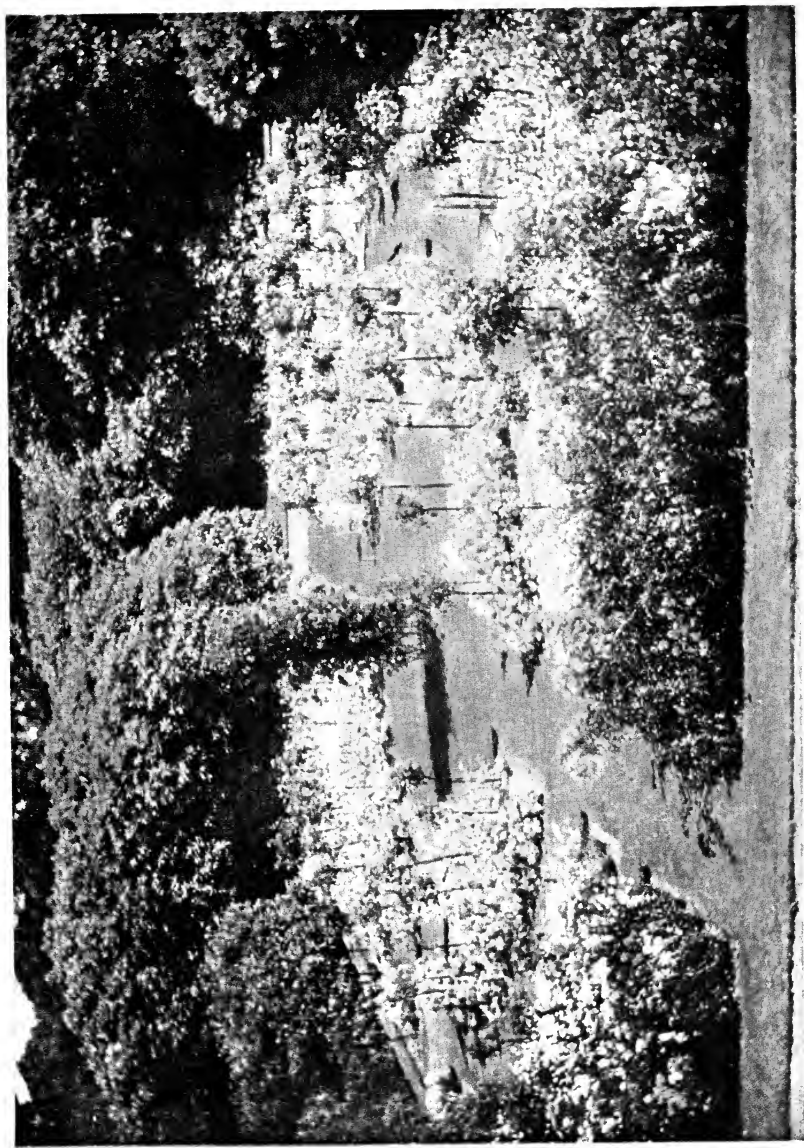
experience with Carnations, which have an irresistible way of claiming friendship, especially if one endeavours to have them in bloom all the year round, which is not so difficult as it sounds. In fact, with the help of a little greenhouse, it is fairly easy. I advise all my gardening friends, even at the risk of making myself a bore, to grow their Carnations from seed. It is infinitely more fascinating than growing them in the orthodox way, and if there are few prizes—well, usually there are few blanks. By prizes I mean new varieties that will take the Carnation world by storm, gain certificates and awards of merit from the flower societies, and put at least a ten-pound note in the grower's pocket. By blanks I mean those with single flowers, and even they are only disappointing by comparison with the double ones.

I have not yet made the ten-pound note with a new Carnation, but who knows what yet may happen? I am emulating the delightful characteristic of Mr. Micawber, and meanwhile am getting untold pleasure from an eighteenpenny packet of seed. I am keenly interested in one plant: the flowers are not very much to look at, perhaps; they are marked with red on a yellow ground. But—and surely this was worth the eighteenpence alone—there are flowers of two distinct colours on the same plant, and, not content with giving a harvest of blossom in summer, in December my plant is still in bloom. I may have discovered what so many have for long been seeking—a perpetual blooming Border Carnation!

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Half a crown or eighteenpence will buy a packet of good seed, and to buy poor seed is indeed "Love's Labour Lost," since the worthless seedlings demand as much care and attention as those that are worthy. And how vexatious when they bloom to find that one could have bought plants just as good (or just as bad!) from the coster's barrow—the mention of which reminds me what a wonderful fellow the coster is. So that I might write from experience, and not repeat what is really common knowledge, I have bought plants that were sworn by all the laws of the costermonger to be true Mrs. Sinkins Pinks, pure white and double, and none other. I have planted them in the sure expectation of finding one sunny June morning that they would produce poor single flowers in rose and magenta shades, and I have not been disappointed! But the labelling of the coster's Carnations is really the most wonderful thing about them. When the discerning amateur is offered the golden yellow *Maréchal Niel*, or the red *Henry Jacoby*, labels and all, then, of course, it may be presumed that if he buys he buys with his eyes wide open, but really many hundreds of such rubbish are sold annually to a gullible public, or the itinerant vendor would not re-appear each spring as he does.

The seed is preferably sown in some shady corner of the greenhouse in March; but if no such luxury is available, a shady border out of doors will do just as well. Those in doubt as to the method of sowing small seeds



A GARDEN OF ROSES AND ANNUAL FLOWERS

FASHIONABLE FLOWERS

are advised to turn to the chapter on sowing, where I have attempted to make plain such matters as often dismay. If seed is sown under glass one has merely to transfer the seedlings singly to small flower-pots when they are large enough to handle, and, when they are nicely rooted in these, harden them off and plant them out of doors 15 inches apart. If seed is sown in the garden border, the seedlings are, when an inch or so high, transplanted at 6 inches apart, and in a month or six weeks they will be big enough to put finally in the bed or border where they are to bloom. It is all delightfully straightforward, and very simple, if an early start be made. An early start is everything, for then the plants will take care of themselves. It is rather a long time to wait until they bloom, but, if one can possess one's soul in patience throughout the first season, as soon as the new year comes in one's hopes and anticipations increase as each day passes. When the flower stems show, how they throng the plants! They are produced not in ones and twos, or even in handfuls, but literally in armfuls, as though to invite the grower to cut and cut and still come again.

All this glorious harvest is yours, gentle reader, if you will but dig the soil well before you put out the plants, mixing with it a little rotted manure and, when spring-time comes, scatter a little bonemeal on the surface and fork it in. Those who put high value on perfectly rounded form of flower with smooth-edged petals and

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calyx guaranteed not to split—alas! those so scrupulous must grow the named varieties that, in comparison with seedling plants, give a meagre harvest of bloom. Not that they are not full of charm and beauty. I admit most of what their devotees claim for them, but I am worldly-minded—in plain, blunt words, I want more for my money, and I find it in a little packet of seed.

The named varieties (or, indeed, any variety that one wishes to perpetuate exactly) are increased by layering in early August. A few leaves are removed from the base of each shoot, a slit is made through a joint in the stem, and the cut portion is pegged down in a little heap of sifted sandy soil. In six weeks' time the layers ought to be rooted if care is taken to keep the soil moist. Then, if the varieties are hardy enough, the plants may be put out in a prepared border or bed, there to bloom the following summer, or, if of delicate constitution, they should be placed in small (3-inch) flower-pots and kept in a cold frame until March, then to be planted out of doors.

Fragrance in a Carnation is a quality to be cherished, for many beautiful sorts of the present day are scentless. Let me name a few that still possess something of the real old clove fragrance. I should include Agnes Sorrel, crimson; Raby Castle, pink; H. J. Cutbush, scarlet; Banshee, lavender and scarlet; Castilian, rose; Ellen Douglas, silver grey; Queen of Scots, pink; Much the

FASHIONABLE FLOWERS

Miller, white ; Narses, crimson ; Robert Berkeley, scarlet ; Floradora, pink ; Helen Countess of Radnor, crimson.

Among the up-to-date Carnations that have lately been sent forth with a flourish of trumpets are several flowers of unusually attractive colouring—e.g. Elizabeth Shiffner, orange buff ; Amazon, orange buff with red tinge ; Mrs. Henwood, white ; Mrs. Robert Berkeley, pink. La Milo is a beautiful, long-flowering, pink variety.

Marguerite Carnations should appeal to the home gardener, for they are very easily grown, and though the flowers are rather small and boast no perfection of form, they come in plenty in August and September, when the beauty of many flowers is tarnished, and they last a long time. They look charming in vases or pots placed round about the house, and they are most useful for cutting for the home. The seed is sown in February or March in the greenhouse, the seedlings are nurtured there until May, when they are put out a foot apart where they are to bloom.

Carnations may be perpetuated with very fair success by cuttings ; it is best to take them early in July, then, if inserted in sandy soil under a bellglass on a fairly shady border, they will form roots. Success is even more likely if they are kept in a greenhouse in a temperature of about 50°, the pots containing them being in glass-covered boxes above hot-water pipes. But I have rooted them with the help of the cloche.

Sweet Peas.—Five years ago I should have had no

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hesitation in including Sweet Peas among the homely flowers, but with great improvements in the flower itself, elaborate methods of cultivation, special soil mixtures, special manures, and special ways of training them have been introduced, and possibly the material at the disposal of the grower is not quite so accommodating as it was. The plants seem more prone to disease than they used to be. Still I think for those who elect to grow it in a homely way the Sweet Pea may still be classed as a homely flower. At any rate, it is a fashionable one. The healthiest plants—at least in the garden of the inexperienced—are those grown in well-tilled rather than in well-manured ground. If the soil is poor, the best and safest material to dig in where it is proposed to grow the Peas is turf which has been stacked for a year. It is then described as being in a mellow condition, and is easily chopped into pieces the size of one's fist, and provides unsurpassed material for the plants. It is a mistake to dig in rank manure, for this produces a soft gross growth that readily succumbs to disease. If well-rotted farmyard manure is available in autumn, have it dug in 18 inches deep, but do not apply it in spring just before the plants and seeds are put out. Sweet Peas are deep-rooting plants, and to give them a real chance the soil should be trenched—that is, it should be disturbed—to the depth of 3 feet.

It is a common practice to sow the seeds singly in small pots $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide, or several in one pot 4 inches

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wide, and to plant out the seedlings in April. But I shall advise the home gardener that quite as good results are obtained by sowing the seeds out of doors in late February or quite early in March. The plants ought really to be 12 inches apart, but it would scarcely do to sow the seeds at that distance, since some will not come up, others may not, and some may not live to blossom. So let the home gardener sow the seeds at 6 inches apart. Then the alternate seedlings may either be pulled up or left to grow, as the gardener thinks best. But I warn him that the harvest of blossom will be finer from plants that are left 12 inches apart.

I am not going into full details about staking, training, watering, protecting from birds, and so on, because the veriest tyro knows such things are essential ; but attention may perhaps with advantage be directed to one or two points in connection with these matters.

An easy way to keep the birds off is to syringe the little plants with quassia solution. Perhaps the simplest form, although the most expensive, is to obtain tubes of quassia from the chemist, and to make a solution according to the directions. The cheapest and most laborious way is to buy quassia chips and soak 1 pound in 2 gallons of cold water for a few hours, afterwards bringing the water to boiling point. The solution is then strained, and for use 6 gallons of water are added.

Slugs are often a great nuisance, and one of the best ways of lessening their ravages (for one can scarcely hope

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to do more) is to scatter nitrate of soda on either side the row of plants, using $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce per yard run. Care should be taken that the nitrate does not touch the plants. While distasteful to the slugs, it stimulates the growth of the Sweet Peas.

There are many ways of supporting the plants, wire trainers of various shapes now being made. The Simpli-citas netting is to be recommended. But the old-fashioned way of using hazel sticks is still scarcely excelled. The Peas never look better than when supported by these.

One may help the plants in various ways from the month of March onwards. Hoeing the soil frequently, so that the surface is kept loose, is one of the safest ways of encouraging them to make progress, and applying artificial manure is one of the least safe methods in unskilled hands. The slightest overdose and alas! the buds turn yellow and fall off. But a little nitrate of soda scattered alongside the rows once every ten days or so during May will help them along finely, but as this fertiliser tends to produce leaves at the expense of flowers, it must be applied with care and not after the buds begin to show. Half an ounce to each yard run of row is ample, and the fertiliser should be watered in.

Soot water is an excellent stimulant for Sweet Peas, and gives a deep green colour to the leaves; it is simply obtained by soaking a peck bag of soot in a barrel holding 6 or 8 gallons of water. This liquid is one of the safest of all fertilisers for the home gardener to use. The tub



A THATCHED GARDEN GATEWAY IN DR. OWEN'S GARDEN,
CATERHAM VALLEY



A RHODODENDRON DELL

FASHIONABLE FLOWERS

will come in most useful later on when the flower buds show, for the bag can be filled with cow manure or horse manure and immersed in the barrel of water. The brown liquid that results should be diluted with a similar quantity of water before it is given to the Peas, and twice a week will be quite often enough.

The several diseases that attack Sweet Peas are always more prevalent and likely to cause greater disaster in heavily manured soil, so it is as well to be on the safe side, using little manure in the soil and making up the deficiency by the application of liquid fertiliser when the plants are growing freely. When a diseased plant is noticed it should be pulled up and burnt, for there seems to be no remedy. But one may take preventive measures by burning all the haulm, liming the soil in autumn, and growing the Peas in a fresh piece of ground for the next year or two.

Everyone, of course, realises that a prolonged display of blossom can only be obtained from healthy plants and when the dead flowers are cut off as they fade, so that no seed-pods form.

Two safe fertilisers for use in the home garden are basic slag, dug in in autumn (6 ounces to the square yard), and in spring, before the Peas are sown or planted out, a scattering of bone-meal some 10 inches or 12 inches below the surface.

It is pretty well a hopeless task to attempt to give a short list of the best varieties of Sweet Peas, for each year

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the number of new sorts is legion. But of those with waved or crinkled outline I shall recommend Etta Dyke, white ; Elsie Herbert, white, with rose edge ; Evelyn Hemus, cream, with rose edge ; Sunproof Crimson, crimson ; Edrom Beauty, apricot and salmon ; Tennant Spencer, mauve ; Mrs. Hugh Dickson, cream and rose ; Mrs. Hardcastle Sykes, pink ; Tom Bolton, maroon ; Nettie Jenkins, lavender ; Mrs. W. J. Unwin, white, with scarlet flake ; Clara Curtis, primrose. Among the old-fashioned varieties, the flowers having a plain margin, such as these are still worth growing : Dorothy Eckford, white ; Lady Grisel Hamilton, lavender ; Helen Pierce, marbled blue and white ; Sybil Eckford, lemon and rose ; King Edward VII., red ; Prince Olaf, blue and white ; Queen Alexandra, red ; Zarina, peach pink.

CHAPTER XXIV

TREES FOR THE LAWN

The trees should be planted in groups of several together, and arranged towards the margin of the lawn.

I AM not at all sure that a stretch of lawn can be improved by any planting, but, if planting is thought to be necessary, there is undoubtedly nothing so suitable as a careful selection of trees and shrubs. Trees of comparatively small stature are, I think, best of all, for they have natural grace and afford welcome shade. Preference should be given chiefly to trees that yield beautiful blossom, although a few others are invaluable. It is better also to choose trees that lose their leaves in the winter rather than to plant evergreens, for their changing aspects are full of delight. In spring, in summer, and in autumn their varying beauty is such as to appeal to the most casual of gardeners. The trees should be planted in groups of several together, and arranged towards the margin of the lawn. Among trees suitable for lawn planting there is perhaps none to surpass the incomparable Lily Tree or Magnolia. The loveliest of all is the Yulan (*Magnolia conspicua*). In April its dark stems scarcely show among the large, white cup-shaped blooms

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that open in lavish profusion ; and when their time comes, how tenderly the petals fall, how bewitchingly they lie ! The Lily Tree, with falling flowers, is as lovely as when in full bloom, for the petals lie thickly on the green-sward like flakes of April snow. And how entrancing to watch the birth of the large, green, lustrous leaves ! They claim such affection that their passing in autumn is a matter for keen regret. Another Lily Tree called soulangeana, with larger blossom, reddish purple without and whitish within, though handsome, has not quite the charm of the Yulan. The smaller growing Star Magnolia (*Magnolia stellata*) is charming when in bloom in March, and a group of half a dozen, especially if the ground beneath is carpeted with blue Squills, makes a bewitching spring picture.

Need I sing the praises of the Golden Chain (*Laburnum*) and descant on the unsurpassed loveliness of the blossoms that hang like golden tresses, and, dying, gild the green turf beneath ? Rather let me counsel the home gardener to mingle with it the red-flowered May, for both blossom together. If the mauve *Wistaria* can be coaxed up the gnarled stump of some dead tree, what exquisite moments are in store for the gardener when the graceful bloom bunches depend ! And why restrict one's selection to the common *Wistaria* when another kind, called *multijuga*, with flower bunches 2 feet long, is available, not only in mauve but in white ?

The Judas Tree (*Cereis siliquastrum*) is more pic-

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turesque in nature than appealing in name ; whether or not Judas hanged himself upon this particular sort of tree, it seems unfortunate that one so attractive should have such sinister associations. The small, rose-coloured blossoms come very freely in early summer, and make a brave show. The Ornamental Peaches are exquisite flowering trees, at their best in May ; and one called *atrosanguinea* is loveliest of all. Its blossoms are of intense rose shade, creating a distinct note of colour, and standing out most vividly from everything else. The luxuriant display more than compensates for the lack of fruit.

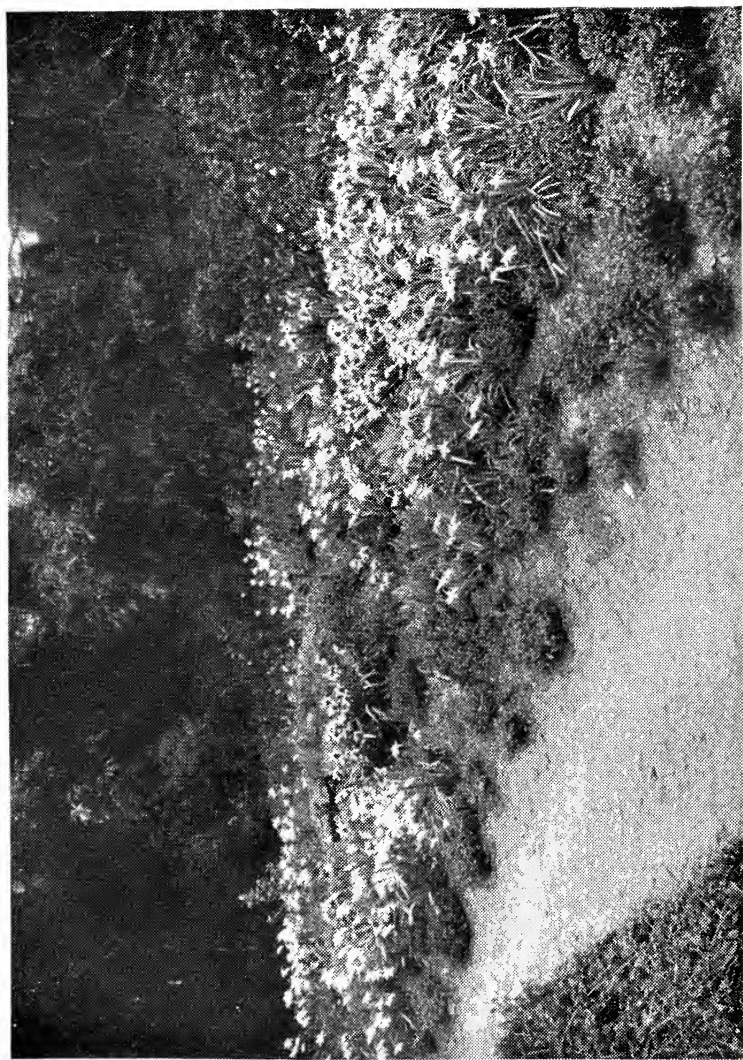
Among the Crabs are some perfect lawn trees ; perhaps none of them excels the old Siberian Crab, which has the double merit of yielding lovely flowers and attractive fruits that make delicious jelly. *Pyrus baccata* is another Crab that becomes smothered in bloom in spring. The Mountain Ash, though not showy when in flower, is very handsome when in fruit ; its bright red berries glow vividly in the grey gloom of an autumn day. An exquisite flowering Apple is *Pyrus floribunda* ; this forms a symmetrical little tree that is smothered in fascinating pink blossom in May. There are few more tempting garden pictures in early summer than a weeping Hawthorn in full blossom ; the leafy flower-studded branches fall with perfect grace. The Sea Buckthorn (*Hippophae rhamnoides*), especially if planted as a standard on a tall stem, will charm no less with its grey leaves the summer

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through than with its profusion of orange-red berries in autumn and winter. A group of Lilacs, of course, there must be, for what more enticing than Lilac time in the garden ?

But I might long continue and not exhaust the list—which, indeed, I have no intention of doing. I wish merely to indicate to the home gardener a few of the many exquisite flowering trees with which he may enrich the garden and adorn the lawn. Among trees that have no claim to flower beauty, yet are quite invaluable for lawn planting, is first of all the Silver Birch, unsurpassed for charm, unapproached for grace. The Maidenhair Tree (*Ginkgo biloba*), with leaves like a large Maidenhair Fern, of form divine and autumn colouring of guinea-gold, how shall the home garden attempt to look its best without it ? It cannot be done.

The grass beneath and around the leaf-losing trees I have named offers unrivalled opportunities for flower grouping, and there are plenty from which to choose. What, for instance, more entrancing in January than to find the ground aglow with golden Aconite, or white-carpeted with Snowdrops ; in February a mosaic of Crocus, in yellow, white, and purple ; in March thronged with a company of Squills ; in April blue with Grape Hyacinth or golden with Daffodil ; and in May glistening with Bluebell blossom ? Such results are easily obtained ; one has only to put in the bulbs in early autumn, disposing them in natural groups, tapering here, and broadening



WHITE NARCISSI AMONG HEATHER



AN AZALEA GARDEN

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there, before the tree planting is commenced. The best way is to scatter them freely and plant them where they fall.

Among Conifers there are perhaps none to surpass the glaucous Cedar of Lebanon (*Cedrus atlantica glauca*), or the blue-grey Spruce (*Picea pungens glauca*); the Japanese Umbrella Pine (*Sciadopitys verticillata*), with deep green, needle-like foliage; the tall, columnar *Libocedrus decurrens*, somewhat funereal though still most alluring, and Lawson's Cypress (*erecta viridis* variety), of elegant form and rich, green leafage. These, with the Monterey Cypress (*Cupressus macrocarpa*) and its golden variety, are trees and shrubs that attract by their grace of form and pleasant leafage.

Among shrubs proper, suitable for grouping on the outskirts of the lawn, are some of the most vigorous of the *Spiræas*, notably *lindleyana* and *ariæfolia*, that form giant clumps some 8 feet high or more, crowned in summer with plumes of creamy blossom. The *Barberries*, especially *stenophylla* and *Darwini*, are very charming in spring; the flowers are produced in great profusion, those of *Darwini* orange-coloured, of *stenophylla* golden yellow. The *Azaleas* and *Rhododendrons* offer variety enough and to spare, and their brilliant colouring in May and June is unsurpassed. It is wise to plant them for the sake of a distant view, for their colour glow in the landscape is their greatest charm. No other tree or shrub can show such wonderful variety of colour shades as the *Azalea*;

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from white the blossoms range through fawn, pale yellow to deepest orange, and through pink to fiery red. The primrose Broom (*Cytisus præcox*) is one of the loveliest shrubs imaginable for lawn planting ; in April the slender evergreen shoots are wreathed in cream-coloured blossom. The white Broom, too (*Cytisus albus*), is very beautiful. The Golden Bell (*Forsythia suspensa*), a leaf-losing shrub with yellow, bell-shaped flowers in March, is perhaps worthy of lawn planting, although it has nothing but leaves for a summer show.

If the garden is situated in a warm southern county, the hardy Fuchsias are strongly to be recommended, particularly *Fuchsia Riccartoni*. The flowers of the hardy Fuchsias are small, but they come in great profusion. Even in south midland counties the shrubs will pass the winter safely if the roots are protected.

The New Zealand Daisy Bush (*Olearia Haasti*), that blooms in August, and the Mock Orange (*Philadelphus*), that opens in June, are invaluable. Among the Mock Oranges it is doubtful if any excels the common kind (*coronarius*) in floriferousness, though *grandiflorus floribundus* is very free and handsome. The Japanese Briar (*Rosa rugosa*) has a double value—its large, single blossoms in rose or white, which open in June, are succeeded by handsome, Crab-like fruits. The Guelder Rose (*Viburnum Opulus sterile*) makes a big, handsome bush that bears large, white rounded flower-heads like

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snowballs, hence the popular name of Snowball Tree. The Yucca or Adam's Needle (*Yucca gloriosa*) makes an excellent lawn group ; the tall, strong stems, bearing large creamy blossom in August, never fail to compel admiration.

Among evergreen trees and shrubs for lawn planting, there is probably none to surpass the Holly in some of its numerous forms. For those who care for coloured foliage, the Hollies with so-called silver or golden leaves may be recommended. Silver Queen and Golden Queen are two of the most attractive ; *camelliæfolia* is a particularly handsome, green-leaved sort ; while *fructuluteo* has yellow berries.

The June Berry (*Amelanchier canadensis*), which, however, blooms in April, is a lovely white-flowered tree, and in autumn the leaves are finely coloured. Among ornamental Cherries the double-flowered form of the common Wild Cherry (*Prunus Cerasus*) is a glorious sight in full flower. Most attractive also are *Prunus* (*Cerasus*) *Pseudocerasus* with pink, and its variety James H. Veitch with rose-coloured flowers. *Prunus* *Pissardi*, with bronze-purple leaves and pinkish flowers, is well known and freely planted. The Indian Bean Tree (*Catalpa bignonioides*) forms an especially handsome lawn tree, though only when well developed is it seen at its best. The flowers are of unusual colouring, white with purple and yellow markings.

The trees and shrubs I have mentioned thrive with a

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minimum of attention if planted in well-dug soil. The Brooms are well suited to planting on light ground. Azaleas and Rhododendrons will not flourish in land containing lime, while a little peat, dug in at planting time, is advantageous.

CHAPTER XXV

PILLAR AND PORCH

Let us see what the gardener may plant to save his home
from the reproach of the commonplace.

ONE may generally recognise the discerning gardener by the way his house walls are planted. Does the ubiquitous Ivy smother the bricks and mortar and Virginian Creeper, whose glorious autumn colouring scarce compensates for its untidiness, drape window-box and balcony, and fling its far-reaching tresses over house porch, and verandah pillar? Then one may hazard the guess that no gardener of fine discrimination controls the pleasaunce beyond. It would be an unprofitable task to search there for Daffodils and Poet's Narcissi massed in natural groups in rough grass, in open spaces between the larger trees; to look for roses in May and again in October; for flower borders filled with luxuriant loveliness in the form of masses of hardy flowers. Likely enough the visitor would find an expanse of lawn dotted here and there with groups of bedding plants; narrow borders full of leaves rather than of blossom, the boundary fences bare or wrapped in Ivy green. But if creepers and climbers of higher degree cling to the walls without wholly cover-

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ing them, and show by their healthiness that each is suited as to soil and aspect, then one may look to the garden beyond in simple faith that is not likely to be disappointed in its hopefulness of good things to come.

The fault most frequently made in planting the house wall is in the choice of climbers, generally those of luxuriant growth are chosen with the result that in a very few years the house from roof to base—nay, from chimney to doorstep, is a mass of monotonous green. Few houses are improved by being altogether hidden beneath a mass of leafage ; the charm of most of them is enhanced when the red brick or grey stone shows through the foliage here and there. There is scarcely a more charming garden scene than that presented by the delicate tracery of the trails of *Ampelopsis Veitchi* or the newer *Lowi*, two creepers of exquisite grace and miniature foliage ; but if trail is allowed to overlap trail and branch to grow into branch, all charm is lost.

One might take a lesson from Nature's wayside teaching before rashly planting the walls of one's house. How exquisite is the scene when some stone wall, hoary with age, green with moss, and grey with lichen, is screened—yet not smothered—by Ivy, grown gnarled and stunted in its vain endeavour to reach unattainable heights ! Or, again, how exquisite when ruined castle, crumbling from weight of years, furrowed and seared by the hand of Time, shows its weather-beaten stone between great masses of Ivy green, that now top the dizziest height, now

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peep through where once was window, or cluster round disused door ! But how uninspiring when old-world wall and century-old keep are hidden beneath a meaningless monotony of green ! They cannot boast even the charm that sometimes clings to chaos. So it is with the house ; the wall that shows grey beneath clustering rose, or red beneath leafy tresses, while disclosing its own charm, adds also to that of the climbers that drape it.

Let us see what the gardener may plant to save his home from the reproach of the commonplace, and, while adding to its outward beauty, still preserve that which is indubitably its own. Among the Mountain Sweets or *Ceanothus* are some beautiful blue-flowered climbers, comparatively rarely grown yet worthy of every consideration. One of the best is called *Ceanothus veitchianus*, of which I am able to give an illustration showing, if not its full beauty, at least its adaptability for training against a house wall. Two other Mountain Sweets that are admirable for wall planting are the deep blue *rigidus* and the pale blue *papillosus*. All three need the shelter of a wall facing south or west.

Among the Clematises there is sufficient choice to suit even the most fastidious, in size and colour of flower and in vigour of growth. Perhaps these favourite flowers are best suited by an arbour or arch ; but I have seen prosaic house walls transfigured by some of them, and they are admirable for verandah pillars. None is more beautiful than the Mountain Clematis (*montana*),

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which produces a profusion of white blossom in May ; it will reach to a great height in a few years, and never fails when May, its flowering time, comes round.

There are some very handsome sorts among the named varieties of Clematis ; their slender growths and large, showy blossoms fit them admirably for planting against the walls of the house. The old purple Jackmani is still one of the best of its colour. Mme. Edouard André and Jackmani rubra are varieties of dark red shade ; Lady Northcliffe, the best blue ; Star of India, violet blue ; Jackmani alba, white ; Nellie Moser, white with red bands ; Beauty of Worcester, violet blue, are a few of the many sorts that are at the disposal of the home gardener.

The Clematis is one of the easiest of all climbers to grow when once it is well established, but sometimes it is difficult to get it to make a start. The chief aids to success are to plant in March in well-dug soil, with which broken lime and brick rubble are mixed, and to shade the base of the stem from hot sunshine. The latter is often the means of saving plants that might otherwise collapse. Walls facing south and west suit the Clematis best, although the purple Jackmani seems to thrive in any position except that facing north.

The two familiar Jasmines—the sweet-scented, summer-flowering white one (*officinale*), and the winter flowering sort with yellow blooms (*nudicaule*)—are charming plants for the house wall, for one provides pale, fragrant blossom in high summer, and the other flashes its little yellow



A BLUE FLOWERED WALL SHRUB (*CEANOTHUS VEITCHIANUS*)



VERANDAH PILLAR COVERED WITH CLEMATIS

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lamps when the garden is asleep. The winter-flowering Jasmine thrives well on a wall facing north. The summer Jasmine needs one facing south or west; it is apt to make vigorous growth, but is easily kept within bounds by cutting out some of the oldest shoots each year. The double yellow Jew's Mallow (*Kerria japonica flore pleno*) is a delightful old plant, just the thing for planting in a corner between the porch and house wall. It is not strictly a climber, but forms a big, loose bush, though its shoots may be easily attached to the wall. In May the leafy stems are spangled with the quaint double blossoms like balls of gold. Any wall, except that facing north, seems to suit it.

One of the chief favourites among Honeysuckles for wall planting is the golden variegated Japanese sort (*Lonicera japonica aurea reticulata*), valued on account of its pretty leafage. It is not an exuberant climber, but grows neatly and with discrimination. The *Wistaria* is known and beloved of everyone, and in the heyday of its beauty, when its mauve flower tresses fall with perfect grace and incomparable charm, it is scarcely surpassed for attractiveness. Though generally grown against a wall, it is, I think, seen only at its best when covering a porch or verandah or pergola, so that the flower bunches may hang free. A south aspect suits it best.

The blue Passion Flower (*Passiflora caerulea*) is an admirable climber for sunny walls, not for its flowers alone,

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but for the ornamental, orange-coloured, egg-shaped fruits that succeed them. Gardeners especially favoured in the matters of sunshine and mild winters may grow several lovely climbers that are scarcely to be recommended for colder gardens; such, for instance, as *Solanum jasminoides*, that bears a profusion of palest mauve flowers; the orange-red Trumpet flower (*Bignonia capreolata*); the vivid, red-blossomed Pomegranate, and *Eccremocarpus scaber*, with scarlet and yellow blooms. All these are of doubtful hardiness, yet I would not class them as too difficult for any southern or south midland garden possessing a sunny wall. For I have seen the *Eccremocarpus* thriving admirably on verandah pillars in a garden at Putney; the Pomegranate, happy and in gay blossom, on a low south wall at Kew; and the *Bignonia*, hoary with age yet blossoming still, in an upland garden in Gloucestershire. In fact, I would urge the reader who wishes to have his home garden different from those of other people to try some of these climbers of doubtful hardiness. They must, of course, have the warmest, sunniest spot in the garden, a well-drained soil that does not get sodden in winter, and some protection in cold weather, such as is afforded by wisps of straw or bracken interlaced among the branches, or by mats nailed against the wall. One never knows what the result will be, for most plants are wonderfully adaptive. If one can only keep them safe for the first year or two, get them "established," they are quite likely to flourish

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afterwards. I wonder why more of us do not attempt that wonderful rose Maréchal Niel out of doors against a sunny wall. I have heard of its thriving even in Cheshire.

The north wall has terrors for most climbers, and to make a success of its planting it is necessary to choose most carefully. The winter-flowering Jasmine; the Winter Sweet (*Chimonanthus fragrans*), bearing fragrant brownish blossoms in winter; the Golden Bell (*Forsythia suspensa*), that yields up its yellow blooms early in spring; the climbing Hydrangea (*Hydrangea petiolaris*), giving large, flattish bunches of white flowers in July; Ivies in variety; and a few Roses, notably Conrad Meyer, Marie Henriette, Gloire de Dijon, and Félicité Perpétue; the winter Honeysuckle (*Lonicera fragrantissima*)—these are some of the best for the sunless wall.

Garrya elliptica is a very quaint plant, suitable for a sunny wall; there are two forms of it, the male form alone being decorative. The long, drooping catkins are produced in winter, and are most ornamental; moreover, the plant is evergreen. Although quite commonly grown, and therefore in danger of being despised, the Fire Thorn (*Crataegus Pyracantha*) and its variety *Lelandi* are most handsome wall shrubs. They are evergreen; in the depth of winter the clusters of orange-red berries, that last in beauty for weeks together, are most attractive.

The pillars supporting the verandah or house porch provide an ideal home for many exquisite climbing plants.

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For bold and handsome leafage that colours well in autumn, there is nothing to surpass the ornamental Vines, particularly *Vitis Coignetiae*. Others of less vigorous growth and with exquisite leafage are *Vitis Henryi* and *Vitis Lowi*. The Dutchman's Pipe (*Aristolochia Sipho*) has very handsome leaves and curious flowers (which, together with the curving flower stems, account for the name of Dutchman's Pipe); but it is apt to need more room than the home gardener has to spare. If, however, it can be accommodated in this respect, the Dutchman's Pipe has claims to recognition as a climber for pillar and porch. *Akebia quinata* and *lobata* are distinguished by most handsome leafage, though they, too, are apt to need a lot of room. Both have purplish flowers, which are succeeded by quaint, purple fruits. Among the Clematises are, of course, several ideal climbers for pillar and porch, and a selection may be made from those mentioned. If the wish is to cover the porch with luxuriant leaf and blossom, then choose the Mountain Clematis that blooms in May, or the Virgin's Bower (*Clematis flammula*) that is smothered in creamy blossom in August. Or, if space is no object, there yet remains the Old Man's Beard (*Clematis Vitalba*).

But best of all, perhaps, for wall, pillar or porch are the Roses. What variety there is from which to choose! What charm of flower! What fragrance, and what shades of colour! One might make many selections, and it would be difficult to say which was the best, so wide



A SHADY GARDEN CORNER



DAFFODILS MASSED IN THE GRASS

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is the choice and so tempting the material. Let me endeavour to name at least a few of the most enchanting that are at the same time not likely to disappoint in the matter of growth and blossoming. On the sunniest wall of all one may grow the exquisite Macartney Rose, with large, white, single flowers of unsurpassed beauty ; the yellow or white Banksia Roses ; those two beautiful Teas, Duchesse D'Auerstadt (yellow), Mme. Hector Leuilliot (orange yellow) ; Lamarque, a noisette, with lemon-white blooms ; Rêve d'Or, buff yellow, quite a vigorous sort ; the lovely, clear yellow Henriette de Beauveau ; the climbing K. A. Victoria, with creamy blooms of perfect form ; and L'Idéale, with flowers of exquisite tinting, shades of red and yellow. The wall facing west is suitable for Mme. Alfred Carrière, very vigorous, but rather shy flowering for the first few years ; François Crousse, crimson ; William Allen Richardson, orange yellow ; Bouquet d'Or, yellow and cream ; Papillon, rose, white and copper shades ; Hugh Dickson, a big crimson rose ; Mrs. Stewart Clark, an especially handsome variety, with large rich rose-pink blooms ; and the old Thornless Rose, Zéphérin Drouhin.

Facing east one may have Reine Marie Henriette, Gloire de Dijon, Conrad F. Meyer, Dorothy Perkins, René André, Félicité Perpétue, and all these may be grown with greater or less success on a wall facing north. As for climbing roses for the pillars and porch supports, may we not choose from Tausendschön, pink ; Trier,

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white ; Climbing Lady Ashtown, rose pink ; Lady Waterlow, salmon pink ; the lovely crimson Grüss an Teplitz, that is especially fine in autumn ; Gustave Regis, with yellow buds and cream-coloured blossoms ; Climbing Caroline Testout, pink ; W. A. Richardson, and Noella Nabonnand, a vigorous rose, with large crimson flowers ?

CHAPTER XXVI

SOME HOMELY FLOWERS

My regret is never keener than when I am filled with admiration for someone else's Wallflowers and reflect that I have none at home.

It is not easy to define what is meant by homely flowers save that they must be familiar sorts and favourites, easily grown, prodigal of bloom, useful for cutting, and chiefly fragrant. A garden that can grow such flowers as these never lacks appeal; it cannot fail to charm.

High among homely flowers I should place the Ten-week Stock. It is true that there are plenty of flowers better suited to cutting, but it is far too pleasant to pass by. While double flowers generally have not the charm of single ones, the reverse holds good with Stocks. In fact, the one drawback in growing them is that the singles are apt to spoil the appearance of the whole planting, be it bed, border, or little plot. But there is the consolation that, providing one obtains good seed (and the wise gardener never buys seed solely because it is cheap), about 90 per cent. of the blooms will be double. I am afraid I am not sufficiently skilled to distinguish a single Stock from a double one until they bloom, but this I

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have no doubt is possible to those who are able to identify many sorts of roses by their leaves alone. But the biggest duffer among us can grow Ten-week Stocks, and everyone can appreciate their lovely flowers, chiefly in white, pink, mauve, or rose, that last in beauty for weeks together, and enjoy the exquisite fragrance which, especially towards evening and after rain, they exhale. I doubt if there is any flower fragrance more pronounced than that of the Stock, unless it be that of the Wallflower.

One sows the seeds thinly in sandy soil in flower pots or boxes in March, placing them in the greenhouse or frame. The soil is kept moist and covered with brown paper until the seedlings show through. Thence onward it is merely a matter of keeping the little plants near the glass and allowing them plenty of fresh air, so that they may grow sturdily, for crowded seedlings will develop into scraggy plants. It is worth while taking a lot of trouble to get really good plants, for a well developed specimen forms a perfect little bush, with numerous branches, each smothered in bloom. From seed sown in March there will be plants 4 inches to 6 inches high for putting out in late April or early May. Those not possessing either greenhouse or frame may sow the seed thinly on a little bed of soil out of doors in late April. The position should be sheltered, and the soil ought to be made "fine" by frequently stirring with spade and fork. When the seedlings are about 4 inches high they are put out where they are to bloom.

SOME HOMELY FLOWERS

Asters I shall class among the homely flowers. I must confess they are not quite easy to grow, although they are really more tantalising than difficult. I am led to say this from the fact that in August and September I generally contrive to have quite a fair display of the charming and graceful Ostrich Plume Asters that are as far removed from the ordinary florist's varieties as the proverbial chalk is from the proverbial cheese. You sow the seeds in March in greenhouse or frame ; they germinate well and start growing merrily. Then the time comes to put them out of doors. They are nice, sturdy little plants with healthy green leaves, and give every prospect of behaving as model plants should do.

Alas ! that appearances should be so deceptive ! In a week or two one naturally looks for signs of progress, for fresh green leaves and increased stature. How measure the amateur's dismay when it is forced upon him as the weeks pass by that the Asters are unhappy ? The central leaves are stunted, shrivelled, and only half the size of those that grew before. What is wrong ? Well, the chances are that if the centres are examined, they will be found to be attacked by the black fly, a pernicious pest that seems to suck the very life blood from the poor Asters. I have found nothing to check it so well as syringing with Abol insecticide (made into solution according to the directions on the tins), say twice a week for a month or so. But even with the timely help of Abol and other aids with

THE GARDEN AT HOME

which the accomplished gardener is acquainted—e.g. hoeing the soil frequently, keeping it moist, and sprinkling a little fertiliser round about the plants once a week—progress will be slow. In fact, not until half June is passed do they make up for lost time ! Then how they grow ! I was never, I think, so surprised as when first I grew Asters, and most of them tricked me as I have described. I had almost pulled them up and consigned them to the rubbish heap, so unpromising did they appear. But signs of growth in a few decided me to give them a chance, and I did not regret it. For, in late August and onwards throughout September, they were the most charming flowers in the garden. A packet of mixed seed gives exquisite mauves and purples, roses, pinks, and whites. But get—oh ! get the Ostrich Plume !

The wonderful improvement that may follow the work of the skilled florist is shown very clearly in the advance of the outdoor Chrysanthemum during the last decade. There are now some most exquisite varieties among them, and in such an array of colours ! How easily they are grown ! And how invaluable in the garden in September and October, easily surviving the Dahlias, for slight frosts seem in no way to check their enthusiasm, which takes the most estimable form of producing flower bunches in such profusion as almost to hide the leaves.

I doubt if, in a comparatively small garden, one plants to the best advantage by filling flower beds with them



FLAG IRISES



ADAM'S NEEDLE OR YUCCA GLORIOSA, A HANDSOME HARDY
PLANT BLOOMING IN AUGUST

SOME HOMELY FLOWERS

alone. In a large garden, where masses of colour that show well from a distance are needed, that is, no doubt, the way to dispose them, but viewed closely they are apt to disappoint. Far better is it to make little groups of them here and there—say a dozen together in the mixed border where the summer flowers have left unpleasant blanks. There need be no hesitation about transplanting them at any time if the precaution is taken to thrust the spade in the soil around them a week previously, and thus avoid too great a check all at once. It is, of course, necessary to keep the roots well supplied with water for a week or two before and after the removal. If the weather gets so bad in October as to prevent the flowers opening properly, the Chrysanthemums may be dug up and potted in large flower-pots or boxes, and placed in the greenhouse. If the roots are damaged as little as possible, not a flower will fail to open. In fact, I think their unusually accommodating nature is one of the charms of the outdoor Chrysanthemums, and provides their chief claim to be classed as a homely flower.

It is the easiest thing in the world to raise a stock of outdoor Chrysanthemums. The orthodox method is to take the cuttings in February or March (choosing those that grow through the soil in preference to those that grow on the stem), and to put them in small pots filled with sandy soil, placing them in a frame or greenhouse. The unorthodox method is to take the cuttings in late March

THE GARDEN AT HOME

or early April, and to put them in the soil out of doors just where you want them to bloom. And they'll grow, every one of them ! There are so many lovely varieties among outdoor Chrysanthemums—in orange, red, brown, bronze, pink, white and yellow—that I shall not attempt to give a list of the best.

Tufted Pansies are indubitably homely flowers ; they are in bloom from Whitsuntide to All Saints' Day ; they have a characteristic fragrance, and grow like weeds ; and are not they charming when cut and placed in shallow bowls filled with moist sand ? There is not very much to say about the ways of growing them except that it is best to keep them undisturbed for at least two seasons, for they are so much finer the second year than the first. If they appreciate one thing more than another it is a top dressing, well worked in about the base of the stems, of sandy soil, and the spring of the year is the time to apply it. Cuttings root most easily if taken in July, August, or September, choosing those that grow from the soil level or the extreme base of the plant. Often enough they will be found to have roots already. If placed in a frame containing a bed some 4 inches deep of sandy soil, the frame being kept closed for three or four weeks, they will form roots. If the frame is in the full sunshine shade should be given, and for, say, half an hour each day it is as well to admit a little air so that some of the moisture may be dispersed. There are innumerable varieties.

SOME HOMELY FLOWERS

Snapdragons cannot be omitted from the list of homely flowers, for they have all the attributes—except, perhaps, that of fragrance—demanded by the standard I have set up. Who would have thought, a few years ago, of growing named varieties of Snapdragons? Nowadays it is well worth while, because some of the most lovely of all have been honoured with names by the raisers. And how exquisite they are! For instance, Vesuvius and Orange King, brilliant orange red; Lemon Queen, lemon coloured; Carmine Pink, a most charming shade, though the name is none too appealing; Fire King, rose and white, and so on. One may have Snapdragons in tall, intermediate, and dwarf varieties. The last mentioned are to be preferred least of all. The plants are inclined to be “dumpy.”

Snapdragons are so easily grown, and last so many months in bloom, that no home garden should be without them. It is far better to treat them as annuals, sowing the seed each spring, for even if the old plants pass through the winter safely—which is doubtful—they are always more or less “leggy” the second year, and inclined to produce their flowers at the top of long, bare stems. One may sow the seed in a warm greenhouse in January or February, in an unheated greenhouse in March, or out of doors on a warm border in early April. The plants will come into bloom in June, July, and August respectively, and thus a succession of blossom is maintained the summer and autumn through. The

THE GARDEN AT HOME

seeds should not be sown very thickly, or it will be a matter of difficulty to transplant the seedlings without damaging them. Those sown in the greenhouse may be pricked off into boxes of soil when an inch or two high and planted out of doors in April. Those sown out of doors need only to be transplanted, when 2 inches high to the borders where they are to bloom.

I shall class Zinnias among homely flowers, despite the fact that they have no scent; though they may be gathered for the house they look far better in the garden borders. There is something about Zinnias that enraptures me. Whether it is that they reward skill in cultivation so royally, or their unique and handsome colour shades make strong appeal, or whether the October mists that form a shroud over less lasting flowers serve but to make the Zinnias last the longer, I do not know; but I feel that all who have grown Zinnias well will agree with me that they should find a place among the garden's homely flowers. What a world of difference lies between a Zinnia well and badly grown! The latter has but one lanky stem, bare of leaves and crowned by one frail blossom; the former is a branched bush, clothed with big leaves, and each branch carrying its own posy of flowers. It is true that the biggest flowers are not always the best, but on a Zinnia I think they are; at least, they preserve their beauty longer.

In a lone corner of my home garden I have a tub in which a weekly supply of cow manure (tied up in a

SOME HOMELY FLOWERS

bag) is put, and the tub is filled with water. Two or three times a week the Zinnias are watered with the brown liquid, and what vigour is put into the stems, what lustre is given to the leaves, and what size and colour to the blossoms! The greatest enemy of the Zinnia is the slug; the juicy leaves seem to have an especial attraction for this nightly marauder, and to allow him to work his will upon the Zinnia foliage is to ruin the plants. A scattering of lime and soot, or a little Vaporite or Kilogrub dug into the soil, usually suffices to ensure a whole-leaved plant, especially if a search is occasionally made with a lantern. Seeds are sown in March as with the Stocks and Asters, and the seedlings are put out in May about 18 inches apart.

Wallflowers are essentially homely flowers. What an exquisite fragrance pervades the garden when they are in full bloom! Unluckily, some of us have not gardens big enough to grow all the flowers we should like to do, and I must confess that sometimes I forego the Wallflowers, possibly because I can always enjoy them in somebody else's garden. But my regret is never keener than when I am possessed with the joy of some other man's Wallflowers, and reflect that I have none at home. There is this great advantage about them; one pulls them up when they have blossomed without any qualms of conscience, since one knows their day is done. An annual supply of plants is easily raised by sowing a packet of seed on a half-shady border in May or June.

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When the seedlings are 3 inches or 4 inches high they are transplanted at a foot apart, and in October they should be nice little bushes, ready for putting out where they are to bloom in spring. In a mild winter Wallflowers are often partly in flower at Christmas, so that their season may be quite a long one.

CHAPTER XXVII

ON SPECIALISING

The plants are under one's sole care ; the jobber never touches them, and there is infinite joy in this.

WHY not specialise in some favourite flower? The majority of hardy plants need no unusual care, though, on the other hand, some, while thriving well enough when treated generally, reward the grower tenfold if given such little luxuries as delight them. The rose is a delightful flower of which to make a special feature, but it is so indispensable that no good gardener would ever think of growing it in the mixed border, along with other hardy flowers, or, indeed, of growing it anywhere except in a bed by itself. So we may dismiss the rose from our consideration, since it can only be grown properly when given special treatment. Many take delight in growing Carnations ; next to Roses, they fill most space in my garden all too confined. I have them not only out of doors, but in the greenhouse too, and few weeks pass that I am not able to gather Carnation blooms.

The Iris is an excellent flower for the home gardener to take up and make a speciality of ; in fact, I doubt if there is any better. There is such remarkable variety

THE GARDEN AT HOME

in form and vigour of growth, in size and colouring of bloom, and it is possible to have Irises in flower throughout many months of the year and even in mid-winter out of doors. While some of the Irises are quite easy to grow, others tax the skill of the cultivator to the utmost.

Few phases of gardening give greater pleasure than the care of Rock and Alpine flowers ; among them are some that grow as readily as weeds, while others are only to be coaxed into blossom with the tenderest care.

Some may care to fill beds of elaborate design with half-hardy flowers, and to have each one a pattern of neatness and a patchwork of gay colours the summer through. There is much to be said against such a method of flower growing, but, providing it pleases the gardener at home, what matters the rest ? And, as I have indicated elsewhere, there is a good deal to be said in favour of it. We are not all similarly constituted, and what is the use of the home garden unless we can put our own especial fads and fancies into practice there ? Another, more daring still, may find pleasure in topiary work and clip trees and hedges into all sorts of weird shapes, varying from an armchair to a peacock or a weather vane. And why not ? In his own home plot he may, unknown to anyone else, conjure up dreams of century-old gardens, when topiary was the fashion, and in fancy people his pleasaunce with courtiers of the illustrious past. There are many and widely different ways of enjoying a garden, and luckily there is sufficient variety to suit us all.



ROSE ANTOINE RIVOIRE, AN EXCELLENT VARIETY FOR GARDEN DISPLAY

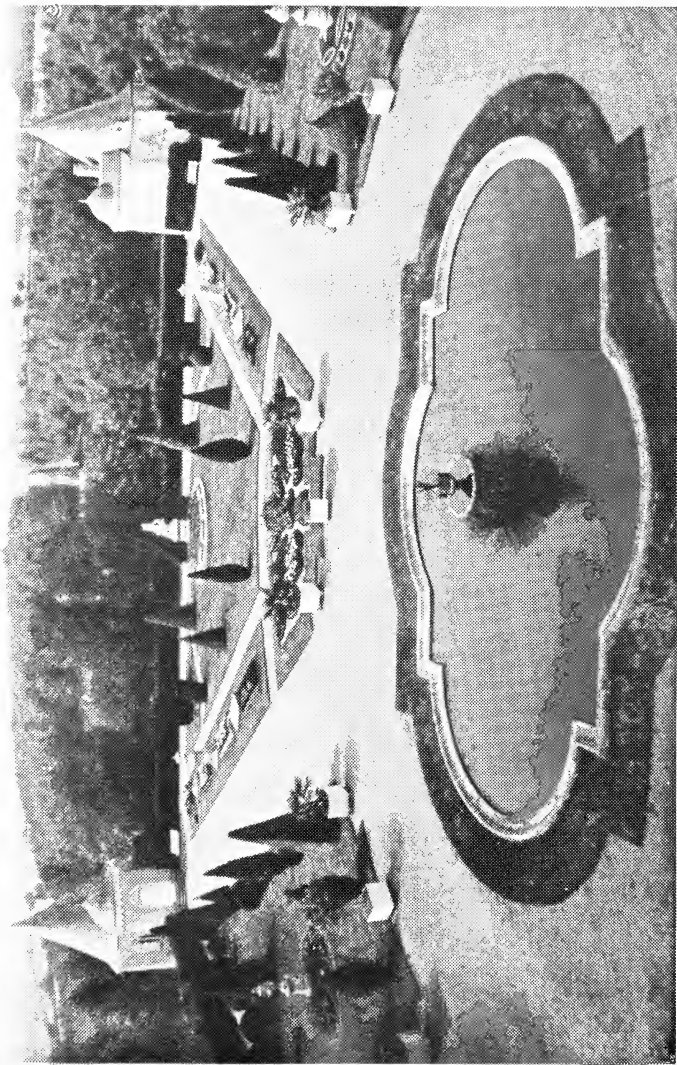


Photo: Lemaire

THE FORMAL GARDEN AT THE CASTLE OF PLESSIS, FRANCE

ON SPECIALISING

Is he who grows roses justified in looking with disdain upon the man who keeps his garden gay with bedding plants? Is not each fulfilling his own ideals, and in so doing guiding the garden to its destiny? What does it matter whether for the moment the fashion is for Pæonies or Peas or Tree Carnations? These and other fashionable flowers are neither better nor worse than they were before. Let each make of his garden what seems best to him, for that way lies contentment and the pleasure of hope fulfilled.

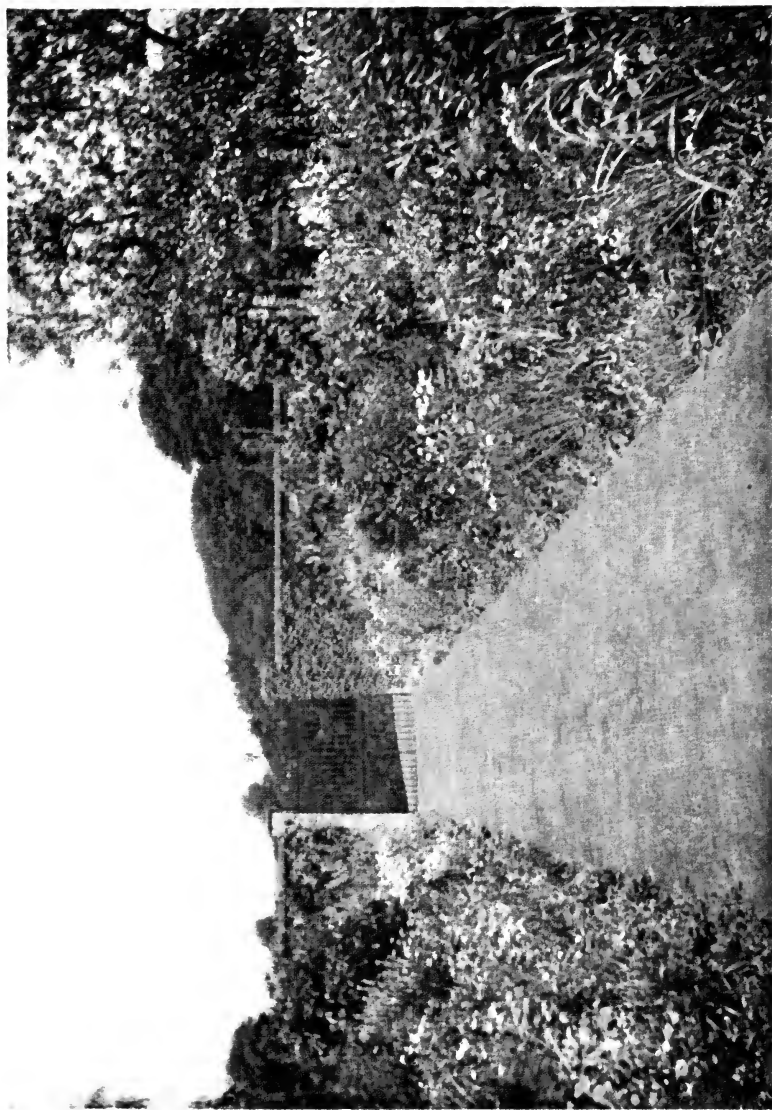
Growing fruit trees is an absorbing interest, and the farther one pursues it the more alluring it becomes. Not only each kind of fruit tree, but the varieties of each kind have such pronounced peculiarities that their cultivation possesses a never-ending fascination. Some are never happier than when expending care and skill in the cultivation of plants notoriously difficult to grow, such, for instance, as Mariposa Lilies and some of the true Lilies or *Liliums*; and if one has a border (covered with frames having movable lights) at the foot of a sunny wall or greenhouse, there are many uncommon and beautiful plants, particularly rare or difficult plants, that one may grow there with success.

If one has a greenhouse that is perhaps the best place of all in which to specialise. There are plenty of plants from which to choose, and it is possible to attend them with scrupulous care and exactly to fulfil their needs. In fact, I think when one has only a small greenhouse, it is better

THE GARDEN AT HOME

to grow chiefly, if not exclusively, just one kind of plant. It is far easier to fill a greenhouse with one kind than with half a dozen kinds. Those who care for the quaint Cactuses may grow them to perfection in a greenhouse that is slightly heated. The gorgeous blossoms of the winter flowering Geraniums may appeal to others, or the exquisite blooms of the winter Carnation, or the semper-florens Begonias; these and many others have great charm, and are not difficult to grow.

Some of the more expert among home gardeners may care to try their hand at raising new flowers by cross fertilisation, and even if they raise nothing very fresh or of great value (although quite possibly they may do both, for many lovely new flowers have been raised by amateurs), they will at least have started a hobby that is as deeply fascinating as it is full of unknown possibilities. The act of cross fertilisation is really very simple; one first removes the anthers (bearing the pollen) from the flower that is destined to become the seed pod, so that it shall not be self-fertilised. Then the pollen from the other flower chosen as the seed parent is applied to the stigma of the first flower. If all goes well, seed will eventually form. This is a bare outline of the proceeding. The worker will soon find that to ensure success the pollen must be transferred at the proper moment—generally to be known by the stigma becoming glistening or sticky. He will also discover other matters of moment, and lay in store for himself many



BORDERS OF HARDY FLOWERS

ON SPECIALISING

hours of disappointment. But even these will be forgotten in the joy that arises at the sight of a plant that is one's own especial creation. This more than compensates for the poor quality of many of the resulting blossoms, and the poor ones are always in the ascendant. Raising flowers from purchased seeds possesses a great fascination, not quite so pronounced perhaps as when the seed is home saved from cross fertilised blossoms, but in neither case does one know what will turn up. The great majority of hardy plants and greenhouse plants ripen seed readily, and one may, if one wishes, gather them in the home garden.

I have merely outlined a few directions in which the home gardener, after some seasons of flower-growing generally, may care to specialise. In a chapter I cannot hope to do more, but there is plenty of gardening literature on special subjects, and those who contemplate such a course will, upon inquiry, find their wants amply catered for. It adds zest, I think, to gardening if one is able, while not neglecting the many beautiful things that are commonly grown, to indulge in the luxury of attempting to meet the special needs of some warm favourite. If its demands prove unusually exacting, the interested gardener will merely consider the task so much better worth the trouble. Moreover, in specialising in this way, one is able to keep the plants under one's sole supervision and constant care. The jobber never touches them, and there is infinite joy and peculiar consolation in this.

CHAPTER XXVIII

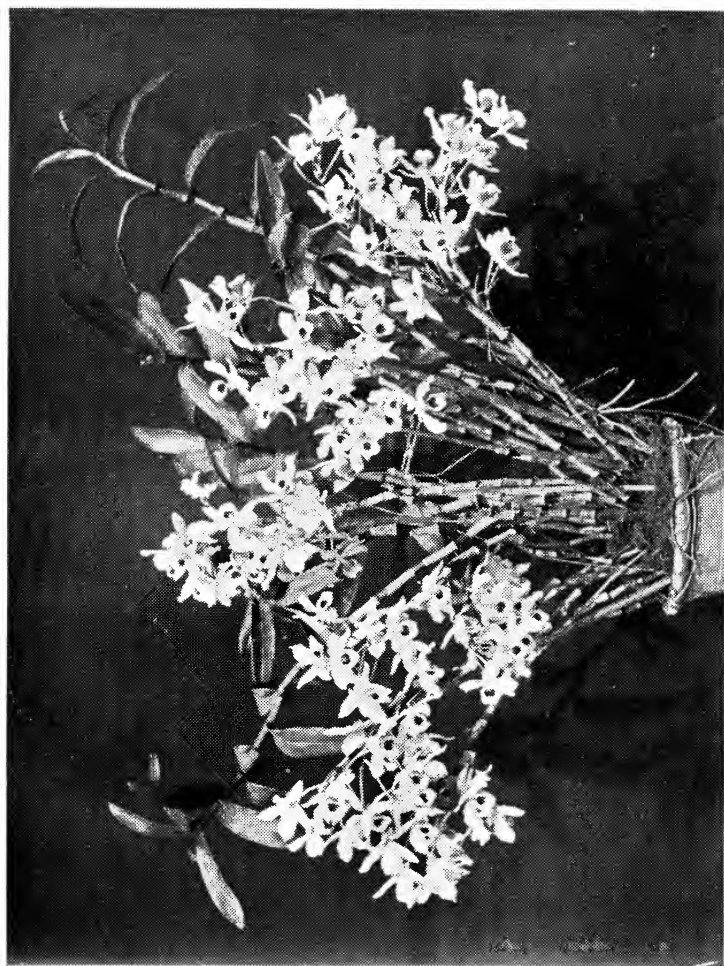
THE GREENHOUSE GAY

In the depth of winter how refreshing and how delightful to pass into a greenhouse full of blossom!

I DOUBT if anyone realises to the full the charm of a garden unless he has a greenhouse too. Those who have no greenhouse profess something like contempt for any and every flower that is not hardy, and I am ashamed to confess that a few years ago I was similarly inclined. But now—well, I have a greenhouse, and that makes all the difference. It is altogether delightful in the dull months of the year to be the possessor of a little glass-house full of Winter flowering Carnations or Begonias, Cyclamen or Primulas, or a few Orchids, to say nothing of favourite bulbs in great variety. All these and others may be grown with much success in a greenhouse in which the minimum night temperature does not fall below 45°, although, if in unusually cold weather the thermometer falls to 40°, no harm is done. I do not go so far as to say all the flowers I have mentioned will be quite as happy in each other's company as if each had a greenhouse to itself, where conditions really suited to individual needs could be afforded, but they will grow very well



A BEAUTIFUL YELLOW PRIMULA (KEWENSIS) FOR THE GREENHOUSE



AN EASILY GROWN ORCHID (DENDROBIUM NOBILE)

THE GREENHOUSE GAY

indeed, and give untold delight. I have grown Chinese Primulas in an absolutely unheated greenhouse, and considering that the temperature of the house was often at freezing point, the results were quite wonderful. At Christmas I had an excellent show of bloom, for as the plants were showing bud I took them indoors, keeping them near the window in the daytime and in a warm room at night.

The more plants I grow the more amazed I am at their accommodating nature. There seems to be nothing they can that they will not do to please one, though it does not follow that tender care and a little coaxing are not worth while and well repaid, for indeed they are. I do not intend to enumerate all the plants that can be grown in the greenhouse together with details of cultivation, for I am sure that, having grown a few, the gardener will, if his space permit, soon make inquiries as to others he may attempt. I shall merely draw the reader's attention to a few that I think are very beautiful and most attractive, and with which I have had great success.

Easily first I shall place Perpetual flowering Carnations, that are in their full beauty in late autumn, early winter and spring. I must be frank and confess that in the neighbourhood of large towns where fogs are prevalent, and the sunshine does not often find a way through, during December there will be little progress to report, and the flowers will open slowly. But with the longer

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days and waxing sunshine of the new year the buds, of which there is never a dearth, will quickly turn to blossoms. I find great pleasure in raising Perpetual flowering Carnations from seed, but some of the blooms are single, and only a few others are up to the form of the named varieties. But one has compensation in extra vigorous and extra floriferous plants, and in the delightful state of suspense that arises from an ignorance of their qualities, be they good or bad.

After a turn round the garden where there is little to show but leafless stems, wet soil, and rotting leaves, how refreshing and how delightful to pass into a greenhouse full of Carnation blossoms, long-stemmed, variously coloured, and possibly fragrant! Such an experience keeps alive the love of home-grown flowers in the gardener's heart, and reveals at once the possibilities of a little greenhouse that is slightly heated and the charm of tender flowers.

There is very little to tell about their cultivation—little, at least, that presents any difficulty. The seed is sown in February or March, and the seedlings are subsequently transferred singly to small pots. The compost used should consist of siftings from turfy soil, with a sprinkling of sand and a little leaf soil added. When nicely rooted in the small (3-inch) flower pots, the plants should be repotted into those 5 inches wide. This commonly takes place in June. It is as well to keep them in the greenhouse for a week or two after the second

THE GREENHOUSE GAY

potting, but from then until the middle of September they can be grown out of doors in a sunny spot. It is an advantage to sink the pots in ashes, and so keep the soil more uniformly moist. The 5-inch wide flower pots are those in which the plants will bloom, although, if it seems necessary, those 6 inches wide may be made use of. The soil mixture for the second or final potting should consist of rough, turfy soil, with which a little dry, decayed manure, a free sprinkling of sand, and a little bone-meal or special Carnation Fertiliser are mixed.

Named varieties are raised from cuttings, and it is not difficult to induce them to form roots if the right method is followed. The cuttings should be taken from towards the middle of the stems. They are made from the little side shoots that develop in the axils of the leaves, broken off right at the base near the stem, and are cut through beneath a joint, the lowest pair of leaves being removed.

A good average length for a cutting is 2 inches to 3 inches. If inserted in flower pots filled with sand, the latter being placed on a board above the hot-water pipes, and covered with a cloche, they will form roots in three or four weeks. The inside of the cloche must be wiped every morning to remove the moisture that collects there. If the temperature of the greenhouse is within a degree or two of 50°—which is the proper warmth to aim at—the cuttings will be in a temperature from 5° to 10° warmer, and that is as it should be. They must of course, be shaded from sunshine. When it is found

THE GARDEN AT HOME

that the cuttings are rooted, each one is potted singly in a small ($2\frac{1}{2}$ -inch wide) flower pot, the soil mixture used consisting of sifted loam with plenty of sand and a little leaf soil. The freshly potted plants should be put back under the cloche for a few days; by tilting the cloche first a little, then more, they may be gradually inured to the lower temperature of the greenhouse. When well rooted in the small flower pots they are repotted into those 5 inches wide, as described for the seedling plants.

“Stopping” the shoots to induce the formation of bushy plants is an item of considerable importance in growing Perpetual flowering Carnations. The first “stopping” consists in removing the point of the young plant when about 5 inches high. It is not sufficient to cut off the top, for this has no effect, since it results in shortening the leaves only. The base of the plant should be held firmly while the top—i.e. the growing point—is pulled out. Thus, other shoots are induced to form, and a bushy plant is produced. The second and final “stopping” takes place late in June or early in July, when the points of the shoots that have since developed are taken out, as already described. It is not advisable to allow many growths to form on the same plant, or the flowers will be small and of poor quality. Five stems are sufficient. Then, if the side shoots and all flower buds except the central one on each stem are subsequently removed, there will be five fine flowers on every plant as



HOME GROWN CHRYSANTHEMUMS



A GOOD ROSE FOR THE GREENHOUSE, LADY ASHTOWN

THE GREENHOUSE GAY

a first crop, and, of course, others will be produced later. If at the second "stopping" all shoots are "stopped" on the same day, the chances are that all the flowers on the plant will be open pretty much at the same time. If, however, the shoots are stopped at intervals of a week or so, each plant will give a succession of bloom.

I am afraid I have taken up a lot of space in describing the method of growing Winter or Perpetual Carnations, but I hope I have not bored the reader, for they are really most enchanting flowers to possess in the depth of winter, and their cultivation cannot fail to give intense interest to all who can accommodate them in a greenhouse the winter temperature of which does not often fall below 45°, or only occasionally as low as 40°. A temperature of 50° is what one should aim at, but the great thing is to afford them all the fresh air possible. The heating apparatus is valuable not only because it keeps out the cold, but because it enables one to admit plenty of fresh air even in chilly weather. Supposing, for instance, the thermometer registered 38° out of doors, and the greenhouse were unheated, the ventilators would need to be closed. With the aid of hot-water pipes, however, it would be a simple matter to maintain the temperature between 45° and 50° while having the ventilators partly open. The more fresh air the Carnations can have the better, and the temperature should not exceed 50° unless it increases naturally in sunshine.

Chinese Primulas, of which the Star Primulas, that

THE GARDEN AT HOME

continue in flower for weeks together, are the most attractive, are admirable flowers for the home greenhouse. Seeds sown in March will produce plants that begin to bloom in October, while seeds sown in April and May develop into plants that come into bloom in winter and early spring. The Kew Primrose (*Primula kewensis*), with an abundance of bright, yellow blooms ; *Primula obconica*, with flowers in rose, crimson, or white ; the Abyssinian Primrose (*verticillata*), with whitish leaves and pale yellow flowers, are other lovely plants that need a minimum of warmth and are not difficult of cultivation. All are grown from seed sown in March and April. During summer the plants need to be kept as cool as possible, while in winter a temperature of 45° or 50° suits them. It is as well to repot *Primula obconica* finally into 7-inch pots, but all the others need only those 5 inches wide. A suitable soil consists of two-thirds loam or turfy soil, one-third leaf soil, and a free sprinkling of sand.

Bouvardias are very bright in autumn and early winter, and are grown in the same way as Fuchsias. Cuttings are inserted in spring—say late February or early March ; and when rooted are potted off singly in small flower pots. When well rooted in these they are repotted into others 5 inches wide, in which they will bloom. Throughout the spring the plants are grown in the greenhouse, but from early June onwards they may be kept in a cold frame or even out of doors.

In September they are brought into the greenhouse

THE GREENHOUSE GAY

again. It is necessary to "stop" each plant when 6 inches or so high, and to "stop" the resulting shoots also, so that a "bushy" plant may result. Bouvardias like a little peat in the soil, so we may use turfy soil two-thirds, peat and leaf soil one-third, with a free scattering of sand. The plants last a long time in bloom and are wonderfully showy. President Cleveland, single, scarlet, is the best of all; this variety gives a warm glow of colour to my own home greenhouse, and I can strongly recommend it. Vrielandi, single, white, and Alfred Neumer, double, white, are other good ones. When the plants have finished flowering and the leaves begin to fall, less water is given. In winter they are leafless, and little or no water is needed. If in spring the old plants are cut back, there will soon be plenty of fresh young growths which may be taken off and inserted as cuttings, or the old plants may be taken out of their pots and repotted, most of the old soil being first shaken from the roots. If cut back (the young shoots being merely thinned out if too numerous) and repotted as becomes necessary, the final flower pots being those 7 inches in diameter, large specimen plants will result.

Zonal Geraniums are unsurpassed for brilliant colour in the greenhouse in the winter. They need a minimum temperature of about 50° to be seen at their best. They are easily raised from seed sown in January and February, or cuttings may be inserted in February and March. Throughout the summer months the plants are grown in

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a frame or out of doors, but until June they are kept in the greenhouse. "Stopping" the growths, as in the case of *Bouvardia*, is necessary to ensure well branched plants, and all flower buds that show before September should be taken off. In September the plants are taken into the greenhouse, and will soon begin to bloom. The cuttings form roots without difficulty in March in a slightly heated frame or greenhouse, if inserted in firm, sandy soil and given little water ; a close, moist atmosphere is altogether inimical. When rooted they are potted singly in small flower pots, $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide. The final potting may be in 5-inch or 6-inch pots. The soil should then consist of turfy loam, with which sand is freely and bone-meal sparingly mixed. Until the plants are put in the pots in which they bloom, no fertiliser is mixed with the soil used for potting. Zonal Geraniums need careful watering at all times, and especially until they are well rooted. When the plants have finished flowering less water is given. In spring they are cut back, and fresh shoots suitable for cuttings will form. A few handsome sorts are (with single blossoms)—The Sirdar, scarlet ; Lady Roscoe, rich pink ; The Mikado, cerise ; Hall Caine, cherry red ; Snowstorm, white ; Lord Curzon, magenta ; Mrs. Brown Potter, bright pink. Varieties with double blooms are—F. V. Raspail, scarlet ; General de Wet, light cerise ; Double Jacoby, crimson ; Hermione, white ; and Olive Schreiner, white with red edge.

Winter flowering Begonias are invaluable plants

THE GREENHOUSE GAY

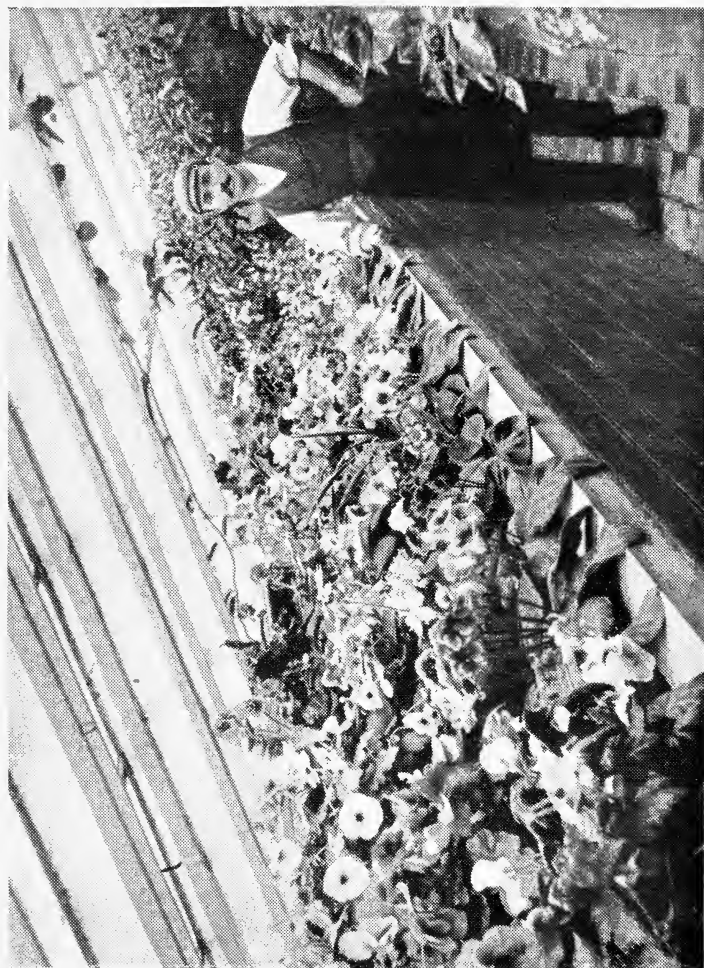
for the greenhouse in winter. A night temperature of 45° is really too cold for them; they are most satisfactory in a temperature that rarely falls below 50°. Gloire de Lorraine, pink, and Turnford Hall, white, are two charming sorts, that make perfect little bushes, smothered in bloom. In a warm moist atmosphere numerous shoots arise from the base of the plants in spring, and when 2½ inches long they may be taken off as cuttings. They will soon form roots in sandy soil in a closed case. When rooted and gradually inured to the ordinary temperature of the greenhouse they are potted singly into small pots, and subsequently into those 5 inches wide. The most suitable soil is that composed of turfy soil two parts, leaf soil one part, and a free sprinkling of dry, decayed manure and sand. The plants must be kept in the greenhouse throughout the summer, the glass being shaded and the atmosphere warm and moist. All flower buds that appear should be taken off until the end of September. There are many other delightful winter flowering Begonias—such, for instance, as John Heal, Ensign, Winter Cheer, and others. They have much larger and showier blooms than the two already named, though not produced in such profusion. These large flowered sorts are increased by cuttings taken in June. Begonia semperflorens, which may be had in pink, red, or white, is even more accommodating than those mentioned, for it may be had in bloom all the year round by raising fresh plants at different periods. Plants

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are easily grown from seed sown at any time from January to September, while cuttings root readily and the roots may be divided. All the *Begonias* named need resting for a month or six weeks after their flowering is over, the soil then being kept comparatively dry. Fresh growths soon form when the plants are placed in a warmer and moister atmosphere; they may be used to form cuttings, or the old plants may be repotted and grown on to form big specimens.

Cyclamens are invaluable for a winter display, but they are not really very easy to grow, and one has to wait fifteen months for blossom. From seed sown in October the plants bloom the following winter twelve months. Seed is sown thinly, and the seedlings are transferred singly to small pots. In early spring they are repotted into those $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide, and in June into others 5 inches wide, in which they will bloom. Great care in repotting is necessary, so that the little corm or bulb is only half covered. A temperature of 50° during the winter months is suitable, but during the summer the plants must be kept in a frame that is cool and shaded. The best soil for *Cyclamen* consists of loam with which a little leaf mould, dried cow manure rubbed through a sieve, and sand are mixed.

Cinerarias ought certainly to be grown, especially the new, freely branched sorts that are smothered in bloom in spring and early summer. Seed is sown in May, and the plants are grown in a cold frame throughout the



GLOXINIAS IN THE WARM GREENHOUSE



A WELL-GROWN PLANT OF CALCEOLARIA

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summer. They need cool, moist surroundings, and for this reason are commonly grown on a base of ashes in a frame shaded from strong sunshine. To enable the seed to germinate and to nurture the seedlings while they are quite small a warm atmosphere is needed, but it should not exceed 50° , and a few days after the seedlings are potted they should be gradually "hardened off," and during summer have all the fresh air possible. During August and early September they may be put out of doors in a shady spot. The final potting should take place in October, pots of 6 inches diameter being chosen. Subsequently, the plants are kept in the greenhouse in a temperature of from 45° to 50° . Cinerarias are especially liable to the attacks of greenfly, but this may be destroyed by the little Fumigen cones that are so convenient for the use of the home gardener.

Calceolarias are also raised from seed sown in May, and during summer their needs are similar to those of the Cineraria. In winter, however, the temperature of the greenhouse in which they are grown ought not to exceed 45° , and all air possible should be given. The plants remain in 4-inch pots throughout the winter, and in February are repotted into those 7 inches or 8 inches wide, and in these they will bloom in May. The best soil for Cinerarias is rough, turfy soil, with which a little leaf mould and a sprinkling of bone-meal are mixed. A similar mixture with the addition of silver sand suits Calceolarias.

Bulbs in variety may be had in flower throughout

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winter and spring ; they are the easiest of all greenhouse plants to grow. A start is made by potting Freesias in July and August for flowers at Christmas and early in the new year. The bulbs are small, so eight or ten may be put in a 5- or 6-inch flower pot. They are kept in a cold, shaded frame for two months or so until well rooted and leaf growth shows. After being gradually exposed to full light they are brought into the greenhouse. If the temperature does not exceed 50° or so they will make good progress, and some will be in flower before the old year is out. Roman Hyacinths and Paper White Narcissi, if potted in August and September, will provide flowers for Christmas and the New Year. It is best to pot a few bulbs at a time, at intervals of a week or two, to ensure a succession of bloom. The proper place for them for the first eight or ten weeks is out of doors under a covering of ashes ; give water before covering over, then no more will be necessary, although if the weather is exceptionally dry it will be wise to sprinkle the ashes occasionally. Ixias are charming for cultivation in pots. The flowers are of most varied and wonderful colouring ; they may be had in green, red, crimson, and many other shades.

These, together with Crocuses, Squills, Grape Hyacinths (Muscari), and Fritillaries, should be potted in September and treated like the Roman Hyacinths. In October the home gardener may pot Daffodils, and during October and November Tulips, to his heart's content, sure in the

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knowledge that they will afford a brilliant display in early spring. It is of great importance to have all bulbs well rooted before they are brought into the greenhouse, so for the first two months they remain under ashes out of doors. Ashes fresh from the fire should not be used ; it is wise to expose them to the weather for a week or two before using.

In spring one may sow all sorts of seeds to keep the greenhouse gay during the summer months. There are hardy annuals in great variety, including the lovely violet-blue *Campanula macrostyla*, Candytuft, Stocks, Asters, *Clarkia*, and the Summer Cypress (*Kochia trichophylla*). Then there are *Begonia semperflorens*, Tuberous Begonias, the charming little blue-flowered *Browallia*, *Verbena*, *Balsam*, *Petunia*, Cockscomb, Butterfly Flower (*Schizanthus*), to say nothing of Fuchsias, Marguerites, and Heliotropes, the three last-named being grown from cuttings taken in spring.

Chrysanthemums, of course, are a host in themselves, but they are so easily grown that they call for little comment. The shoots that grow through the soil round about the stems are taken off and inserted as cuttings in early spring. During summer the plants may be grown in pots (out of doors), or they may be planted in a border and carefully taken up in September and potted in large flower pots. The shoots may be "stopped" during the summer months according to the kind of plant required, and the size of bloom may be

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regulated by disbudding. A plant with numerous shoots results from frequent "stopping," and if all buds are allowed to develop the flowers will naturally be small.

I have not exhausted the possibilities of the home greenhouse by any means. I have not even mentioned climbing roses, and anyone may grow a climbing rose in the greenhouse, if only he will plant it in good, turfy soil to start with, and choose a suitable variety, such as Bouquet d'Or, Maréchal Niel, or Climbing Lady Ashtown. It may be remarked that the ideal conditions advised for the various plants mentioned differ somewhat, but that is not to say that they will not all thrive very fairly well together. Some are more accommodating than others, it is true; chiefly reliable of plants that bloom in winter are bulbs of all kinds, Carnations, Primulas, Cinerarias, Geraniums, semperflorens Begonias, and Bouvardias. But the home gardener possessing a greenhouse in which in winter the temperature never or rarely falls below 45° may attempt all I have mentioned with real hope of success.

CHAPTER XXIX

PRUNING MADE PLAIN

The beginner errs in attempting to apply the practice of pruning before he has mastered the principles.

PRUNING is an item of gardening work that perplexes the average amateur gardener considerably. He fails to grasp the principles that underlie the practice. It appears to him to be a hopeless business if he realises the importance of pruning ; if, as is not infrequent, he makes up his mind to learn pruning as he would shorthand, then he will doubtless prune every kind of plant in more or less the same way, and in the end make a far more grievous mess of things than his fellow amateur who, disheartened by the apparent complexity of the subject, has left pruning alone. Where the beginner errs in pruning, as in so much other gardening work, is in attempting to apply its practice before he has mastered the principles ; in such a case an untoward result is inevitable. If, on the other hand, he were first to learn something of the principles of pruning he would find that the practice came simply enough, and would scarcely need learning at all. The would-be pruner should first of all clearly understand the object for which he prunes and the nature and habit

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of the plant he wishes to prune. Having a right conception of these, the rest is plain sailing.

Take, for instance, the pruning of Roses, which for general purposes may here be divided into two classes, climbing and dwarf. Each needs pruning in quite a different way from the other, but the way is quite easily ascertained by studying the habit of growth and mode of flowering of the Roses. It will be noticed that a climbing rose produces its finest blossoms on growths or shoots that were formed during the previous summer ; in other words, shoots that are one year old. Flowers are also borne on growths of two or even three years of age, but there is this difference. The flowers on one-year-old shoots are produced on little growths that spring directly from the vigorous main shoot ; the flowers of older branches arise from side shoots, and are therefore wanting in size and vigour. It is thus the object of the pruner to furnish the tree with as many one-year-old shoots as possible. To prevent overcrowding, some shoots must be dispensed with ; obviously, the older growths, those that have had their day as one-year-olds, are those to cut out.

In the case of bush or dwarf roses it will be seen that the flowers are produced on the current year's growths. Evidently the pruning must be different, and so we find it to be. In dealing with climbing roses, the old shoots are cut out to make room for the young ; with bush roses, old shoots are cut back to encourage the growth of new.



A BELLFLOWER FOR THE BORDER (*CAMPANULA LACTIFLORA*)



AN ATTRACTIVE CYPRESS (*CUPRESSUS ERECTA VIRIDIS*) FOR THE HOME GARDEN

PRUNING MADE PLAIN

In pruning fruit trees each kind needs separate consideration to appreciate how its pruning is carried out, but to do so here would only be to repeat what is said in the notes dealing at length with the various fruits. Supposing the ignorant pruner, confident in his own mind that to prune a plant or tree he has only to cut it back, treats a Pear tree and a Peach tree similarly, and cuts back the shoots of both, he would certainly have no crop of Peaches, even though he did of Pears, for the simple reason that the method of flower and fruit production is dissimilar. The fruits of the Peach tree, like the flowers of the climbing rose, are borne almost solely on the one-year-old growths. The fruits of the Pear, on the contrary, are produced chiefly on spurs—*i.e.* short, sturdy growths that arise on the main branches. A little study of the mode of fruit bearing would guide the pruner and make his work comparatively simple, while head-strong pruning, having for its object only the work of cutting back, might prove disastrous. Take the Apple : fruits are freely produced on spur growths, but they are also borne on one-year-old shoots. Thus, to prune the Apple exactly as one would prune the Pear is wrong. Red and White Currants give their fruit from spur growths, while the Black Currant fruits chiefly on one-year-old or last year's shoots. Gooseberry fruits are produced both on spurs and one-year-old shoots. In each case special pruning is necessary. Then with some fruits the worker needs to consider varieties separately, for the

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pruning that would suit one variety of Apple would not necessarily suit another.

Pruning shrubs is less understood even than the pruning of fruit trees, and, perhaps, for this reason the shrubs in numberless gardens are never pruned at all. Yet the way in which shrubs produce their leaves or flowers or fruits governs the method of pruning to be applied, and, if rightly understood, should simplify the work. If a shrub or tree produces its flowers on last year's growths—one-year-old shoots—then we may apply the method of pruning practised with climbing roses: that is, when the blooms are over, we cut out the older growths to make room for the younger. If the blossoms or fruit arise from the current year's shoots, then we essay to make them as vigorous as possible by cutting back the older ones. With a right knowledge of these few principles, even the ignorant pruner would do little harm. It is not true to say that all roses, fruits, and shrubs come exactly within the practices outlined, or pruning would not be the great stumbling-block it is. But these are the first things a beginner should learn.

From what has been said, it will be seen that a close observance of the manner of production of the crop we wish to encourage is first to be considered. The question of the time when pruning is best carried out is also of moment. Fruit trees are pruned chiefly during the winter months: in January and February; exceptions are found in the Peach, Nectarine, and Black Currant,

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which may be pruned as soon as the crop is gathered. As soon as the flowers are past is the best time to carry out the pruning of climbing roses, while bush roses are pruned in late March and early April. Shrubs that bloom on the current year's growth are pruned in early spring, while the pruning of those that bloom on the previous year's shoots is carried out as soon as the flowers are past.

It may be taken that the certain result of cutting back a shoot is to force dormant buds into growth ; bearing this in mind, the pruner will doubtless exercise care as to the haphazard use of the knife. When a tree is growing vigorously, it is useless to attempt to prevent its doing so by cutting back the strong shoots ; such a practice results in the appearance of still more vigorous growths, which are notoriously shy flowering, and consequently bear poor crops of fruit, and the bother of it is that if they are not checked they so weaken other shoots on the tree as eventually to render it useless. I have seen splendid wall fruit trees ruined in this way. A few gross shoots appeared and were allowed to remain unchecked, or were cut back ; the result was that the lower branches were quickly deprived of vigour and died.

Pruning the roots is the usual method recommended of curbing the vigorous branch-growths, and if not carried out too drastically so as to cripple the trees, it appears to be the best thing to do. But much may be accomplished by judicious summer pruning, that is by pinching

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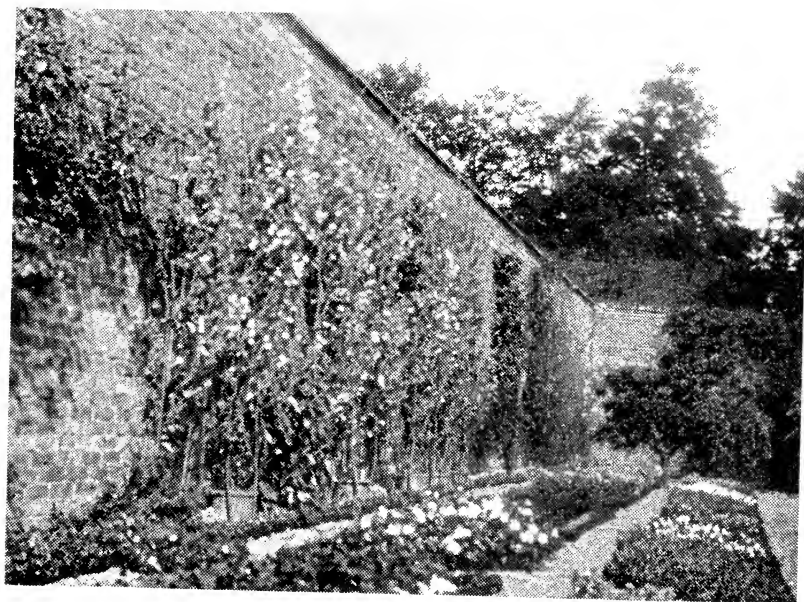
out the ends of the growths when they are only a few inches long, and to continue pinching all secondary shoots that appear. This is practised in the cultivation of fruit trees, and with some wall shrubs. It generally achieves the end in view, since the flow of sap is more equally circulated and the balance of growth is restored.

The presence of gross vigorous shoots in fruit trees is doubly bad ; they are not only themselves unfruitful, but tend to weaken the fruit spurs. A check such as summer pruning gives during full growth is thus to be recommended and greatly to be preferred to the cutting back of shoots so often ruthlessly practised in winter. It is a bad practice to prune when trees and shrubs are starting into growth, for the cut surfaces are liable, in gardening parlance, to " bleed " ; in other words, there is loss of sap which must tend to weaken the plant. When it becomes necessary to remove a large branch or limb from a tree, the cut surface should be covered with tar to prevent the intrusion of disease germs.

Pruning is a most interesting phase of garden practice, and one about which the most experienced cultivator has much to learn. In fact, it is still one of the most debatable garden practices, and it is difficult if not impossible for an individual writer to offer opinions that shall meet with general acceptance. Pruning is often discussed in the gardening papers, and diametrically opposed views are expressed. It is little wonder when experts disagree that amateurs should be so mystified. Most



SWEET PEAS IN A DONEGAL GARDEN



SWEET PEAS IN A GARDEN IN CHESHIRE



PERENNIAL LARKSPURS OR DELPHINIUMS IN A GARDEN IN BUCKS

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gardeners agree that fruit trees are all the better for judicious and careful pruning. It seems foolish to lay down hard and fast rules for observance in every garden ; plants are living things, and there is no good reason for insisting that plants in a garden in Northumberland need the same treatment as those in a garden in Cornwall, any more than there is sense in believing that what is good for an Englishman at home is good also for him in tropical Africa. The question of local conditions, of soil, and climate, is one of much importance, and their influence proscribes the framing of dogmatic teaching.

CHAPTER XXX

HOW PLANTS ARE INCREASED

The amateur should raise plants from seed when possible, to ensure vigorous plants.

THERE are many and various ways of increasing plants, and it behoves the home gardener, with an eye to keeping the garden full of young and healthy specimens, to know something of most of them. An especial interest seems always to attach to home-grown plants—plants that one has raised, while it is, of course, much cheaper to increase the stock of a plant already in possession than to buy others !

The two commonest methods of increasing plants are by sowing seeds and by taking cuttings, and the former is more generally practised. Growing plants from seeds is the most natural way of perpetuating them, and usually ensures a healthy, long-lived stock. By continually taking cuttings of one especial variety, in time this develops a weakened constitution ; this is doubtless one of the chief reasons why certain favourite varieties of flowers eventually disappear from cultivation. It is especially the case when this method of increase is carried to excess ; often a new flowering plant is over-propagated ;

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that is to say, the stock or parent plants are deprived of young shoots (to be formed into cuttings) at such short intervals that a progeny of weakened constitution is the result. Many beautiful garden varieties of flowers do not come true from seed ; the only way to perpetuate their distinguishing characteristics is by cuttings or perhaps division of the roots. But the amateur will be well advised to raise plants from seed whenever this is found to be possible ; he will then ensure vigorous plants that are less likely to suffer from common diseases that chiefly attack weakly plants.

Many—I might even say most—plants may be increased by cuttings ; when the alternative of raising them from seed meets the wishes of the gardener equally well, it should be chosen. “Cuttings” are chiefly valuable when one wishes to raise a large number of plants exactly alike, since this plan ensures uniformity, at any rate, in the colour of the flowers, and under similar cultural conditions in other characteristics also. If, for instance, we wish to raise a number of plants of a certain *Geranium* for providing a mass of colour in the flower garden, we take cuttings. If seeds were sown from, say, a fine crimson-coloured sort, the chances are that the seedlings would give variously coloured flowers, some like the parents, others quite different ; by taking cuttings we know that all the young plants will be similar to the parents.

It is probably pretty well known that two kinds of

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cuttings may be taken and made to form roots, namely, those of green or soft growth, and those of mature or more or less hardened growth. The former form roots more quickly than the latter, and are chiefly made use of in increasing greenhouse or tender plants, while cuttings of ripened growth are most generally employed in propagating hardy trees and shrubs. Common examples of cuttings taken from the green, growing shoots are found in Geranium, Fuchsia, Coleus, Chrysanthemum, Tree Carnation, and in many others. Flowering Currant, Rose, Privet, and Thorn furnish familiar instances in which the matured growth is used. The best type of green or soft cutting is a shoot from 2½ inches to 3 inches long; it should be only of medium size, neither thin and "spindly" nor coarse and sappy, but fairly firm. It is prepared by the removal of the two lowest leaves, and by cutting through immediately below a joint; that is to say, below the lowest leaf (or leaves, as the case may be) removed. Growths possessing flower buds should at all times be avoided if sufficient others can be procured; they do not make good cuttings.

Cuttings form roots best in sandy soil and with sand immediately about their base; for this reason it is recommended that before the cuttings are inserted a covering of sand be placed on the surface of the soil, then when a hole is made to receive the cutting some of the loose sand will fall into it, and so form a dry base for the cutting to rest on. The most important item in

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the treatment of cuttings and the best way to facilitate their rooting is to exclude air ; in other words, to cover them with glass. How remarkably the absence of such a covering affects them may easily be proved by anyone. Take a few Pansy or Viola cuttings and put them in a prepared bed of soil on a shaded border out of doors. If given no further attention beyond keeping the soil moist they will droop for days, and may or may not revive to form roots, but place a bell-glass or cloche over them, and in a few hours they are perfectly fresh and stand upright, for evaporation is arrested. This is, however, not the only precaution that is necessary. When cuttings are inserted in flower-pots, under a bell-glass or in a frame, the soil should be prepared a day beforehand, and some hours before the cuttings are inserted it should be moistened.

Losses in attempting to " strike " cuttings occur chiefly through " damping off " ; moisture settles at the base of the cutting, decay soon sets in and it collapses. The necessity for watering the cuttings before they are rooted is to a large extent obviated by inserting them in moist though not wet soil, and by syringing the foliage frequently and lightly. The value of the little bed of sand at the foot of the cutting will then be realised, for moisture drains through it readily, and the vital part of the cutting remains comparatively dry. Shade from sunshine should always be afforded, since sun heat naturally increases evaporation, and tends to make the leaves " flag " or droop.

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We can thus summarise the conditions under which cuttings of green or soft growth may be expected to form roots : (1) Exclusion of air ; (2) moist soil when the cuttings are put in, and frequent light syringing afterwards ; (3) shade. The most notable exceptions to these rules are found among the Cactus and allied plants. They need very little moisture and a sunny, airy place ; their succulent growths seem to furnish all the moisture that is necessary, and sustain the cuttings while the process of root formation is proceeding.

Usually it is unwise to leave cuttings lying about between the time of removal from the parent plant and their insertion in the soil, but an exception is found in the Geranium ; the sappy growths form roots more readily when they are placed on a sunny shelf for a few hours. An excess of moisture must be carefully guarded against, or the cuttings are very liable to decay.

It is extremely interesting to observe the progress of a cutting as the various stages of root formation are passed through. Usually the cuttings droop a little for the first few hours after being inserted, and afterwards recover freshness and vitality. If a cutting of soft growth is examined at the end of, say, a week, a slight swelling may be seen at the extreme base. Probably in another week the points of rootlets may be distinguished just emerging from this swollen ring of tissue or "callus," as it is technically termed, and in another week or so the roots will be perhaps half an inch long. The time



A SPLENDID PLANT OF CHRYSANTHEMUM, ELAINE, TWO YEARS OLD



LILIUM AURATUM WITH SEVENTEEN BLOOMS

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taken by cuttings to form roots varies considerably in different plants, but as a rule soft or green cuttings are rooted within three or four weeks.

The question of temperature is one of importance. Cuttings form roots most readily in a temperature a few degrees— 5° or 10° —higher than that in which the grown plant thrives; the higher temperature is usually ensured by a covering of glass in the house in which the parent plants are growing.

Cuttings of hardy herbaceous plants and evergreens, including Conifers, are commonly inserted in a cold frame in a bed made up of sandy soil with a layer of broken bricks, ashes, or broken crocks in the bottom for drainage. The former are taken from green shoots at varying times, but generally in August, while the latter are taken from shoots that are "half ripe"; that is, in such a condition as the first fortnight in October finds them. Cuttings of hard wooded plants—roses, shrubs, etc.—are often cut off with a piece or "heel" of older growth attached. The glass cover or "light" is kept closed for a month, and shade given from bright sunshine. Afterwards a little air is given on bright days or in mild weather. On cold nights protection by means of mats thrown over the frame is desirable.

Cuttings of hardy deciduous (leaf-losing) trees and shrubs form roots when inserted out of doors in well dug soil with which sand has been freely intermixed. A sheltered spot or border at the foot of a fence facing

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north or east is the best place for them. Cuttings of this class should be taken about 9 inches long. Six inches of the cutting is placed beneath the soil, 3 inches only showing above ground. It is important that all cuttings be made quite firm, or their chances of forming roots will be minimised. The soil about those put out of doors is made firm by treading with the foot, while others will be made firm by means of the short stick or dibber that is used to insert them.

The cutting should be made firm at its *base*. When putting in cuttings with a dibber or short stick, the soil is pressed firmly about the base of the growth. In dealing with cuttings out of doors, the layer of soil at the foot of the cutting is trodden firm before the trench is filled in. After cold weather cuttings out of doors are often lifted by the action of frost, and should be trodden down again. A stick with a blunt—not with a sharp—point should be used to ensure that the base of the cutting reaches the bottom of the hole ; otherwise the cutting may be suspended, having no soil immediately beneath it.

Layering is a simple yet slow method of propagation, and is not very generally practised, though in the case of some shrubs it is useful. Branches that are conveniently near the ground are notched, and the notched part is pegged in the ground and covered with soil. The notch is simply made by cutting half through the branch. A sharp twist, so as to bruise the branch



THE ROSE WALK IN THE VICARAGE GARDEN AT SHOREHAM, KENT

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at the point where roots are wanted, often answers as well as the notch, although in the case of thick, hard shoots it is obviously out of the question. Rhododendron, Walnut, Fig, Forsythia, Loganberry are among plants that are usually increased by layering. The best time to carry out this work is in October, although it may be done any time between then and March, when the weather is mild and the ground is not hard; but the chances of success are not so good when layering is delayed beyond October. The process of layering is most familiar in the cultivation of the Carnation.

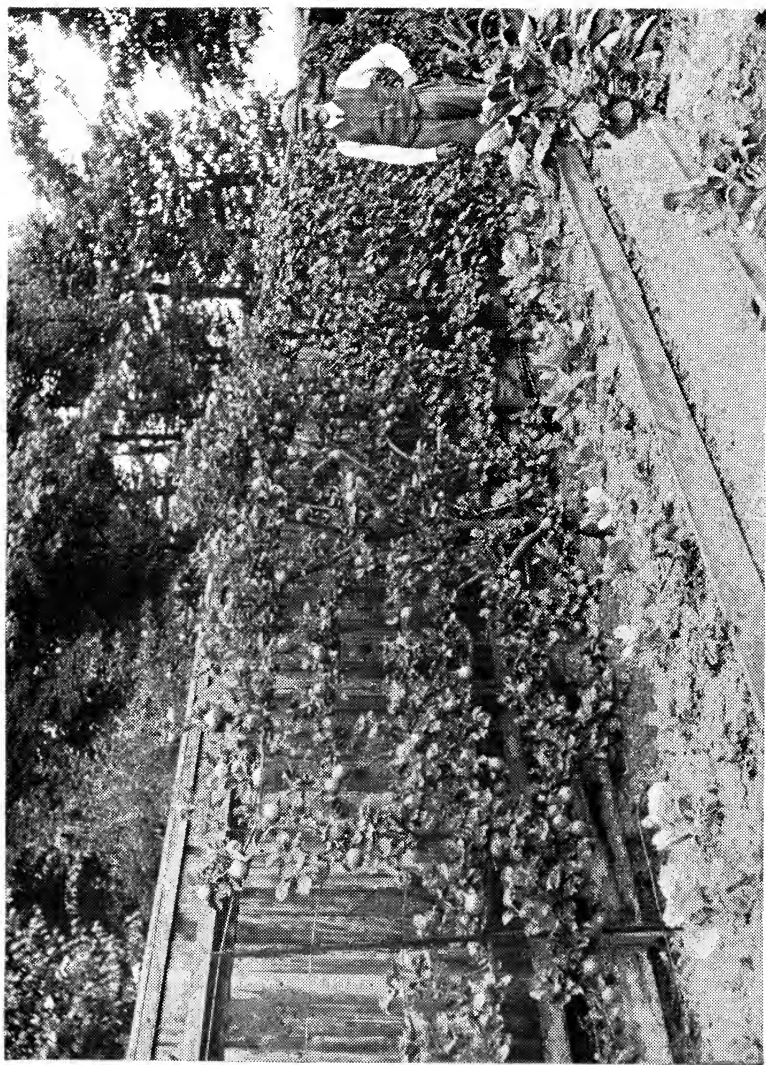
It is customary to increase some plants by means of leaf cuttings. Begonia Rex (a greenhouse plant distinguished by handsome foliage), Begonia Gloire de Lorraine (a favourite winter blooming greenhouse plant), and Gloxinias are familiar examples of plants increased in this way. The leaves are laid on moist sand in a closed, shaded case in the warm greenhouse. Little plants form in the course of a few weeks, and as soon as large enough to take hold of, they are removed from the parent leaf and potted in small flower pots. If kept in a closed case for a few weeks they soon make progress, and subsequently are given ordinary greenhouse treatment. In the case of such thick leaves as those of Gloxinia and Begonia Rex, it is usual to cut through the thick ribs beneath the leaf so as to induce the development of little plants more readily.

CHAPTER XXXI

THE HOME FRUIT GARDEN

Fruit-growers must necessarily be philosophers if not fatalists, for their best-laid schemes may "gang aft agley" on the untimely interference of the clerk of the weather,

EVERYONE acknowledges the merits of home-grown fruits, but comparatively few come to realise the intense interest that attaches to the cultivation of fruit trees. Although there are plenty of exceptions it is true generally that greater skill is needed in fruit than in flower growing; thus success follows only in the train of close attention, such as is bound to lead to devotion. Not only do different kinds of fruit trees vary greatly in their requirements, but different varieties of the same kind often need individual and peculiar treatment. Thus the amateur may not delude himself that success with Blenheim Orange Apple qualifies him to grow the Irish Peach equally well. Such treatment as produces branches heavily laden with Victoria Plums will not necessarily ensure a good harvest of Greengages. Neither does it follow that because his garden yields basketfuls of Royal Sovereign Strawberries that the British Queen will also thrive there. The characteristics of individual varieties



A HORIZONTALLY TRAINED APPLE TREE



A BUSH TREE OF APPLE NEWTON WONDER

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count for far more in the fruit garden than among the flowers, and this fact adds largely to the art of fruit cultivation, and invests its devotees with an enthusiasm that those outside the pale find difficult to appreciate.

Fruit-growers must necessarily be philosophers if not fatalists ; in fact, they might with reason appropriate the significant motto, " *Che sarà sarà,*" for their best-laid schemes may "gang aft agley" on the untimely interference of the clerk of the weather. The exquisite show of blossom on Apple and Pear, Plum and Cherry, that makes the orchard in spring one vast garden of flowers, may delight the heart of the inexperienced and conjure up for him visions of a bountiful harvest of luscious fruits ; but the practised fruit-grower never counts his chickens before they are hatched, or, in other words, does not attempt to estimate his crop before the fruits are "set." He knows only too well that the most lavish display of blossom does not necessarily mean a heavy yield of fruit. Pear trees are perhaps the most tantalising of all in this connection. Their branches are commonly laden with blossom in April, yet when summer comes round there is often but a meagre crop of fruit.

It is sometimes difficult to know why the fruits form sparsely. Apparently the weather is propitious ; there are none of those late frosts so greatly dreaded by the fruit-grower, and everything seems in favour of a record "set" of fruit. But alas ! the display of blossom seems only to have been to delight the gardener's eye, for it

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may bring few fruits to tickle his palate. Many good gardeners aver that the weather of the previous autumn has more to do with the following summer's crop than the blossom display on which the ordinary man would rather pin his faith. There seem to be good grounds for believing them, for a prolonged spell of fine weather in autumn helps the "ripening" of the branches and the subsequent full development of the fruit buds, ensuring that these shall not only give blossom, but in due season fruit. Again, the fruit-grower is not entitled to expect a heavy crop of fruit from his trees in two successive seasons. If he is so disposed, experience will soon dispel his expectations. Such are a few of the disappointments that are common to all fruit-growers, whether skilled or not. But compensation is not wanting. It is found in the knowledge gained by experience; in the good results that follow its practice; in the wide field that is open to the gardener for experiments in training and pruning, and noting the behaviour of the same fruit on different soils and in different positions. In numerous other ways fruit-growing appeals to the interest of the attentive cultivator.

I am anxious to pass in review a few favourite fruits, and in doing so to point out some of the pitfalls that beset the path of the unwary rather than to discourse fully on their cultivation, from the way to dig a hole to the method of storing fruits. In these enlightened days when every other of one's acquaintances is a gardener,

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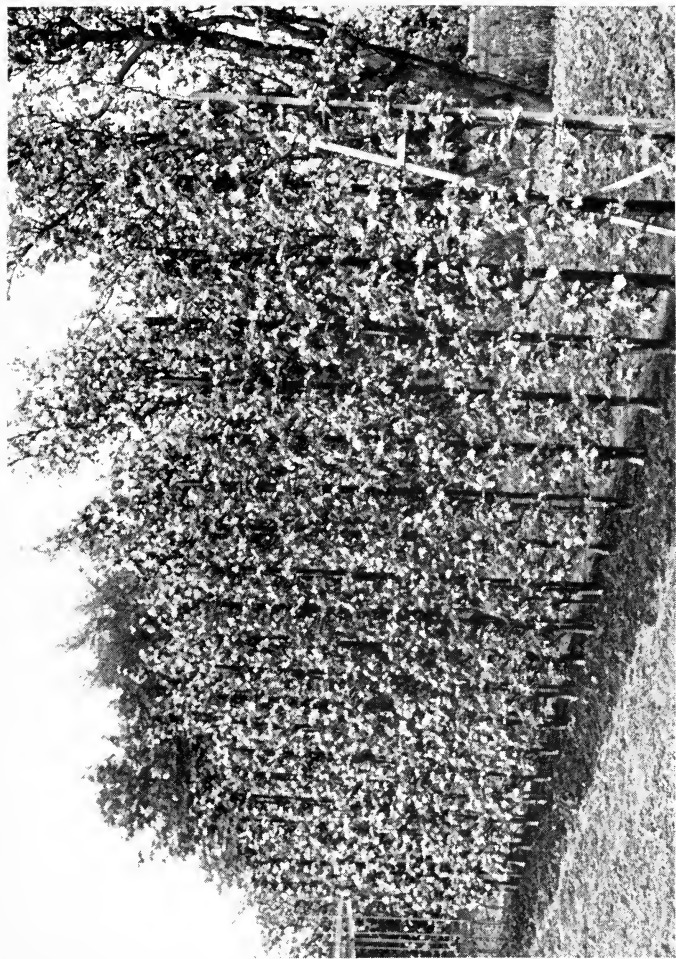
more or less skilled, and learned at least in the names of fruits and flowers if not in the ways of growing them, it seems superfluous to enter into elaborate directions for the simple work of digging, planting, etc. If only one-tenth of the books and articles that have been written round this prosaic subject were read, surely there would be none of us left ignorant. Let us begin with the King of fruits.

The Apple.—The best time to plant is just before the leaves fall, in late October or early November ; but Apples are planted throughout the winter and until late March in mild weather. I shall not labour the points of a hole big enough to accommodate the roots when spread out, firm planting with the uppermost roots not more than 3 inches or 4 inches below the ground surface ; but I must urge that no manure be used at planting time, or the young trees will make rampant growth that will tax the cultivator's skill to bring them into fruit-bearing condition. Further, if bush or pyramid trees on the broad-leaved Paradise or dwarfing stock are grown, it is not wise merely to dig a hole for their accommodation ; the whole plot of ground should be dug 2 feet deep. In planting orchard trees on the Crab stock the chief points to emphasise, in addition to proper planting (which may be deeper than for that of dwarf trees), are to stake the trees securely and not to replace the turf round about the stem. The surface area of the hole made for the tree should be kept quite clear of grass and weeds.

THE GARDEN AT HOME

The first puzzle that confronts the amateur is the initial pruning. Shall the tree be pruned or not the first year after planting? This is a vexed question, and divergent views are held. But the weight of opinion inclines to the pruning, in early spring following planting, of trees less than three years old, and in deferring the pruning of other trees until the second spring. With young trees of both standard and dwarf Apples, the initial pruning is directed towards ensuring a tree of good form. Pruning is ordinarily done in January, but in dealing with newly-planted trees it may be delayed until April. Each of the growths is cut back to within 6 inches of its base to induce the formation of other shoots, and these will eventually form the main branches of the tree. It is important to prune to a bud pointing outwards so that the centre of the tree may be kept as open and free from growth as possible.

The regular pruning of established Apple trees is carried out in summer and in winter, and, so far as the orthodox practice is concerned, it is simple enough. Summer pruning consists in "pinching" or "stopping" all side or lateral growths the third week in July, leaving only five or six leaves on each. The terminal or chief branches that extend the size and define the shape of the tree are not "stopped" at all at the summer pruning. The winter pruning lies in still further shortening the side shoots to within two buds of the base and in cutting off one-third of the leading branches or terminal shoots.



CORDON TRAINED APPLE TREES



APPLE KING OF THE PIPPINS AS A BUSH TREE

THE HOME FRUIT GARDEN

Some widely divergent views have been expressed on the subject of pruning hardy fruit trees, but most experts are agreed that great value attaches to careful and timely summer pruning. By "stopping" the side shoots, fruit buds are induced to form at the base and in due time fruit spurs will develop there. As the trees grow freely during August and September further shoots arise as the result of the "stopping," but they are valueless and the points should be pinched out when they have made two or three leaves.

Even by strict adherence to the practice of summer and winter pruning the fruit-grower may not command success, though he will do far more to ensure it than the grower who prunes in haphazard fashion. Some trees may grow so vigorously that they remain barren ; some bear fruit more freely on spurs ; others will bear largely on one year old growths. These peculiarities need to be taken into consideration. Gross growth is remedied by searching for gross roots and cutting them off as near the stem as one can conveniently trace them. In the case of varieties that do not bear so freely on spurs, the pruning must be less severe. Shoots should be allowed to grow when there is room for them instead of being summer pruned in the usual way ; but the discovery of these idiosyncrasies and humouring them is part of the pleasure of growing Apple trees.

The Pear.—My experience of Pear trees grown in the open is that they are less reliable croppers than Apples,

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if we except a few varieties such as Conference, Louise Bonne of Jersey, and William's Bon Chrétien. The loss of a crop is the more tantalising, since Pear trees are nearly always smothered in blossom in spring. Apples seem more reasonable, since—except, of course, when they are damaged by frost—a good show of blossom is usually followed by a good harvest of fruit. If there is a poor display of bloom then the only thing to do is to make up one's mind to a meagre gathering of fruit.

The pruning of the Pear presents even less difficulty than that of the Apple, for while some varieties of Apple dislike being hard pruned the Pears do not mind it, and under this treatment form fruit spurs very freely. The Pear needs a warmer climate than the Apple to bring it to perfection, hence the advisability of growing the trees against walls or on espaliers in enclosed gardens to ensure good results in the northern counties. Orchard trees of the Pear are grafted on the wild Pear stock, while dwarf trees are grafted on the Quince. These are more satisfactory to the small grower than standard Pears, for, like Apples on the Paradise stock, they come into bearing much more quickly.

I am able to reprint a most interesting table that was contributed to the *Gardener* by the Rev. C. C. Ellison, of Bracebridge, Lincoln, an expert amateur fruit-grower. It is a carefully kept record of the behaviour of several well known varieties of Pears throughout ten years and the number of fruits produced by each variety.

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PEARS

	Name of Variety	1900	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909	Total
1	Emile d'Heyst	—	—	—	—	—	86	100	41	66	88	381
2	"	—	—	—	—	—	79	37	53	—	117	286
3	Doyenné du Comice	—	—	—	—	—	26	8	12	5	11	62
4	"	—	—	—	—	—	5	10	5	6	4	30
5	Conference	15	16	2	5	84	76	51	52	136	90	527
6	"	2	22	2	4	47	67	7	48	126	109	434
7	Pitmaston Duchess	—	—	—	—	—	2	6	—	1	4	13
8	"	1	1	—	—	7	46	28	24	65	53	225
9	Beurré Superfin	—	—	—	—	—	1	8	4	8	1	22
10	Marie Benoist	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	5	3	17
11	Glou Morceau	—	—	—	—	24	61	26	6	2	10	129
12	Beurré Dubuisson	—	1	—	—	—	31	4	43	41	63	183
		18	40	4	9	162	480	285	297	461	553	2309

PLUMS

	Name of Variety	1900	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909	Total
1	R. C. de Bavay	12	8	5	—	1	2	—	—	16	2	46
2	Monarch	4	10	56	—	14	2	75	69	95	30	355
3	"	82	50	92	—	4	13	84	144	86	80	634
4	Jefferson's	4	3	3	6	—	40	8	114	94	25	297
5	"	25	54	12	—	—	10	78	63	126	57	425
6	Coe's Golden Drop	37	46	60	—	—	30	8	61	51	70	363
7	"	45	87	22	3	73	92	—	128	142	96	688
8	R. C. Violet	2	1	7	—	7	157	—	78	182	42	476
9	Kirke's	37	80	118	—	92	20	335	3	380	73	1138
10	Early Transparent	111	33	115	—	16	58	82	32	105	—	552
		359	372	490	9	207	424	670	692	1277	475	4974

THE GARDEN AT HOME

It will be seen that Conference is easily first. This is a delicious Pear, and one that is to be strongly recommended.

Both Apples and Pears may be grown as cordons or single stemmed trees ; these are especially well suited to small gardens, since they can be trained against a wall or wire trellis and take up little room.

The Plum.—Like all stone fruits, the Plum appreciates a soil in which lime is present in appreciable quantity, and the amateur can scarcely go wrong in spreading a good dressing of lime rubble on the soil and digging it in before he proceeds to plant Plums. Firm planting is most necessary, as with all fruit trees, and the uppermost roots should not be more than 4 inches or so below the surface. Plum trees, especially when planted against a wall, are prone to start growing most vigorously a year or two after planting, and if they are not brought back to a proper condition there will be few or no fruits for the grower to gather. The trees should be root-pruned in October, and if raised so that the roots are brought nearer the surface, so much the better. Providing gross growth is kept in check by timely root pruning, fruit spurs will form on the branches, and their formation may also be helped by summer pruning the lateral shoots, as already indicated in dealing with the Apple and Pear. But as Plums often bear fruit freely upon the previous year's shoots, some of these should be left untouched and trained in wherever there is room for them. The list on p. 229,

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compiled by the Rev. C. C. Ellison, is of some interest as showing the behaviour of certain Plums in a midland garden.

Peach and Nectarine.—Both these need similar treatment and may be considered together. They can be grown against walls out of doors only in southern and south midland or other comparatively mild counties, and then walls facing west or south should be chosen. In common with the Plum, the Peach and Nectarine appreciate plenty of lime rubble dug into the soil before planting is carried out. The branches need to be carefully trained in the shape of a fan, and to be about 4 inches apart from each other. Pruning is comparatively simple if one realises that the fruit is produced upon growths of the previous year. When the fruits are gathered the thing to do is to cut out as many of the old shoots as there are fresh ones of the current summer's growth to replace them. If the young shoots produce lateral or side growths, as they often do, these should be cut out.

The practice of disbudding is of much importance in growing Peach and Nectarine trees. It consists in removing in spring and early summer some of the many superfluous little growths that make their appearance. These should first of all be rubbed off so that only three remain on each of the older branches, one at the base and one at the top (these are of the first importance), and one in or near the middle. In the course of another week or ten days the middle growth may be removed also. The

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growth at the base of the older branch is destined to take the place of the latter when it has produced its crop of fruit. It is not wise to rub off too many growths at once ; rather should the work be done gradually, throughout several weeks. Freshly-planted Peach and Nectarine trees are, like Plum trees, very prone to develop gross shoots, and the only way to prevent these is to lift and root-prune in autumn. Peach Leaf Blister is a common malady that often appears in spring. It may be kept in check by spraying with the preparation called Medela.

The Strawberry.—This popular fruit is perhaps more easily grown than any other if the land is in good “ heart,” as the old-fashioned gardener would say ; in other words, if it is good loamy soil, dug and enriched with well-rotted manure. The Strawberry is not very successful on light, sandy ground unless this is heavily dressed with cow-manure in advance of planting. The best time to plant Strawberries is early in September. They should be in rows 2 feet apart, each plant being 12 inches from its neighbour in the same row. When the first crop of fruit is gathered every other plant is pulled up, thus leaving all at 2 feet from each other. The finest Strawberries are obtained in the first and second years after planting, but the third season’s crop, though consisting of smaller fruits, is usually very abundant.

Strawberries are increased by layering in early July. Little plants form on stalk-like creeping growths called “ runners.” As many of the little plants as are needed

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are pegged into the soil (or preferably each into a small flower-pot filled with soil), and if kept moist will soon form roots. In five or six weeks they may be taken up and used to form a fresh plantation or potted, each in a 6-inch flower-pot, to give an early crop of fruit in the greenhouse.

Red and White Currants.—Perhaps the most profitable way of growing these useful fruits is as gridiron-shaped or cordon trees, trained to a series of wire trellises arranged parallel to each other and about 3 feet apart in the open garden. They thrive well against a north wall, and by growing them in this position a succession of fruit is secured. The pruning is quite simple, for both red and white Currants bear their fruits on spurs or short, stubby outgrowths. The side shoots are summer pruned in July in the way already described, and each is cut back to within two buds of its base in winter.

The Black Currant.—This popular fruit has received rather a serious set-back during the past few years owing to the prevalence of the mite which attacks the buds and causes them to become swollen and useless: hence the common name given to this malady of Big Bud. There seems to be no real cure beyond picking off and burning all the big buds and cutting down and burning the badly attacked bushes. If fresh bushes are obtained they should be planted in a different part of the garden. The variety Boskoop Giant is said to be less liable to an attack of Big Bud than the other sorts. The fruits of

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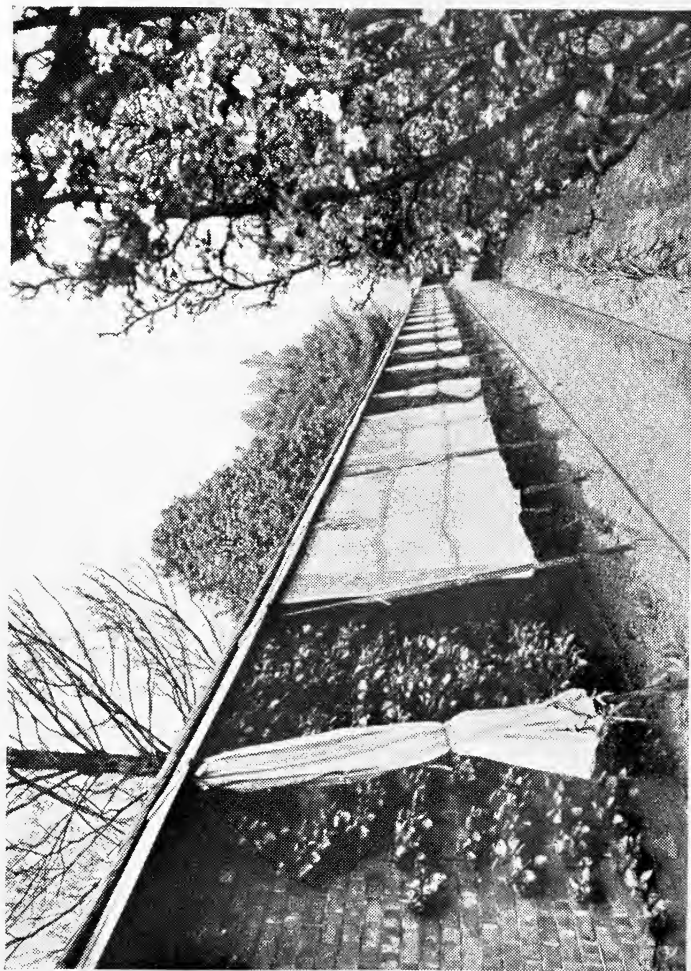
the Black Currant are produced chiefly on the growths of the previous season ; therefore, as in the case of the Peach, Nectarine, and Morello Cherry pruning is directed not to cutting back any of the shoots, but to cutting out some of the older ones to encourage fresh growth. The Black Currant will thrive with less sunshine than many fruit trees, and may, if it is necessary, be planted in partial shade ; then the soil keeps fairly moist, which is just to its liking.

The Raspberry.—The Raspberry is very easy of cultivation if planted in good soil that is enriched with manure. Its roots are chiefly near the soil surface, so that a covering of manure in hot weather is beneficial since the roots are then both nourished and kept moist. It is usual to plant Raspberries in clumps some 5 feet apart, two or three plants forming a clump ; but they may be grown 3 feet apart against a rough wire trellis. If in clumps the shoots are trained to poles ; while if a trellis is used they are, of course, spread out and tied to the wire. The pruning of Raspberries is quite simple, for it consists merely in cutting out the old canes to make room for the new as soon as the fruit is gathered. In winter the canes are again looked over, weak ones being cut out and the thin or soft tops of others cut off.

The Gooseberry.—Although the Gooseberry is commonly grown by amateurs in the form of bushes, it thrives excellently as a cordon, and if grown in this form very fine fruits are obtained. One of the chief troubles of



APPLE LORD SUFFIELD



FRUIT WALL IN THE REV. C. C. ELLISON'S GARDEN NEAR LINCOLN

THE HOME FRUIT GARDEN

the Gooseberry grower is that the birds—especially bullfinches—do a good deal of damage, often ruining the bushes by pecking out the buds. Remedies consist in dusting the shoots with lime and soot when they are moist and in deferring pruning until spring. If pruning is completed in winter there will, of course, be fewer buds left, and these are consequently all the more precious. In pruning a Gooseberry bush growths that touch or are quite near the ground should be cut off, and the bush should be kept as symmetrical and open centred as possible. Thus fruit gathering as well as fruit bearing is aided considerably. Fruits are produced both by spurs (developed by summer and winter pruning) and on growths of the previous year. It is as well to train in as many of the latter as there are room for, taking care to have each shoot at least 6 inches from its neighbour. In winter they may be shortened by one-third their length. If a Gooseberry bush is allowed to get choked up by a mass of growths it becomes quite hopeless ; there will be fruit only on the outside branches. Keep the branches thinly disposed, train in as many of the previous summer's shoots as can be accommodated, and summer and winter prune all other growths not needed for extension of the bush.

The Cherry.—One of the chief drawbacks to Cherry growing is that the birds are so insatiably fond of them, and quite a considerable outlay for netting is necessary if instead of the birds the grower is to have the pleasure

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of eating them. But in some soils—notably those of sandy loam that are naturally well drained, such as are characteristic of some parts of Buckinghamshire, Kent, and Hertfordshire—Cherries thrive so splendidly that it seems unpardonable neglect not to grow them. There is much to be said for the practice of planting Cherry trees for the sake of their blossom alone, and taking what one is able to persuade the birds to leave in the way of fruit. The flower display in spring is invariably most lavish, the fascinating bunches of pink-tipped buds and white blossom throng the boughs in riotous profusion. There is little to puzzle the home gardener in the cultivation of the Cherry. His chief care should be not to plant in rich heavy soil, as the disease called “gumming,” to which Cherries are especially liable, may make its appearance, resulting in the loss of large branches. The fruits of the Cherry are produced on spurs that form naturally on the branches; consequently the routine of summer and winter pruning is practised. But, in common with the Plum, the Cherry bears freely on young shoots, and these may be allowed to develop as occasion offers, but the branches must not be allowed to get crowded. If unusually gross shoots arise, it is no use attempting to remedy matters by cutting them out; it is the roots that must be pruned. The Morello Cherry is commonly grown against walls facing east or north. The pruning for this kind is as explained for the Peach and Nectarine.

The Loganberry and Blackberry.—One may con-

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sider these together, since the details of cultivation are chiefly the same. The best fruits are produced by the growths of the previous season, so the necessary pruning lies in cutting out the old to make way for the new—a work that is preferably carried out in late summer, after the fruits are gathered. Both Blackberry and Loganberry grow rampantly; they may be used to cover rough fences, or may be trained against thick wires stretched between poles. In fact, one may grow them in all sorts of odd corners where the sun shines for several hours a day. The fruits of the Loganberry are not very sweet, but they make up in size what is lacking in flavour, and are most useful for preserving. The Lowberry, one of the several new berried fruits, is highly spoken of. This is the result of a cross between the Loganberry and the Blackberry, while the Loganberry has for parents the Raspberry and Blackberry.

It is always wise in purchasing Loganberry plants to ask for those raised from layers, since among plants grown from seed there may be both good and bad varieties. There are some delicious forms of the Common Blackberry in cultivation, but those who prefer to have named varieties should ask for Wilson Junior and Lucretia for black ones. Those who care to indulge in white Blackberries should obtain the variety called Iceberg. Blackberries form an attractive and profitable covering for a garden fence. There, if in good soil, they grow rampantly and fruit freely.

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A LIST OF HARDY FRUITS (IN APPROXIMATE ORDER OF RIPENING)

DESSERT APPLES

Mr. Gladstone	Allington Pippin
Beauty of Bath	Charles Ross
Worcester Pearmain	Baumann's Red Reinette
King of the Pippins	Adam's Pearmain
Blenheim Orange	Scarlet Nonpareil
Cox's Orange Pippin	Claygate Pearmain

COOKING APPLES

Duchess of Oldenburg	Bismarck
Ecklinville Seedling	Mère du Ménage
Keswick Codlin	Lane's Prince Albert
Grenadier	Bramley's Seedling
Frogmore Prolific	Newton Wonder
Cox's Pomona	Wellington

DESSERT PEARS

Jargonelle	Marie Louise
William's Bon Chrétien	Durondeau
Beurré Superfin	Beurré Diel
Louise Bonne of Jersey	Glou Morceau
Conference	Bergamotte Esperen
Emile d'Heyst	Josephine de Malines

DESSERT PLUMS

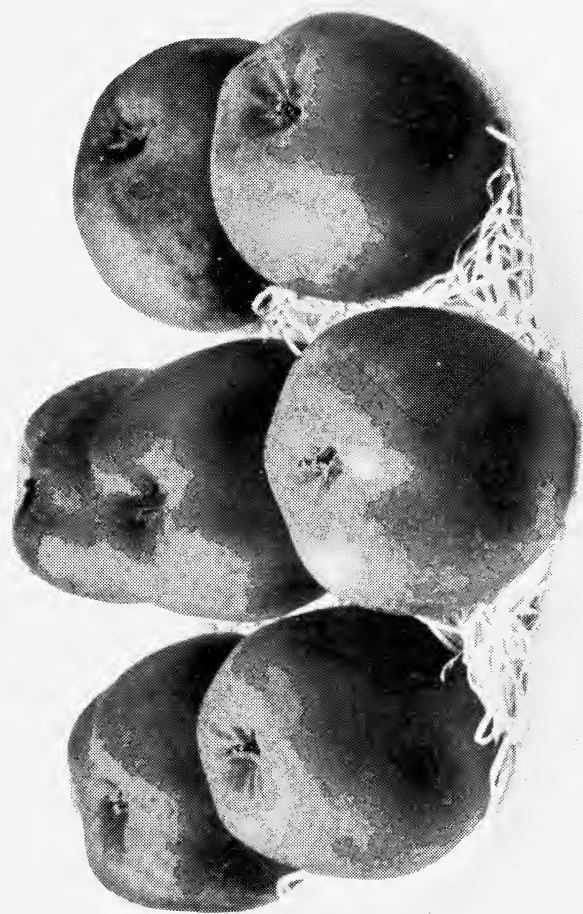
Green Gage	Kirke's
Oullin's Golden Gage	Jefferson
Denniston's Superb	Reine Claude de Bavay
Transparent Gage	Coe's Golden Drop

COOKING PLUMS

Early Prolific	Prince Englebert
Czar	Pond's Seedling
Victoria	Monarch

PEACHES

Hale's Early	Royal George
Crimson Galande	Grosse Mignonne
Noblesse	Stirling Castle



APPLE RIBSTON PIPPIN



NARCISSI IN THE WILD GARDEN

THE HOME FRUIT GARDEN

NECTARINES

Early Rivers	Violette Hâtive
Lord Napier	Elruge
Humboldt	Spenser

CHERRIES

Black Tartarian	May Duke
Early Rivers	Elton
Governor Wood	Noble

RED CURRANTS

Fay's Prolific	La Versaillaise
Red Dutch	Raby Castle
Houghton Castle	Defiance

WHITE CURRANTS

White Dutch	Transparent White
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BLACK CURRANTS

Boskoop Giant	Black Naples
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GOOSEBERRIES

(<i>Green.</i>)	(<i>Red.</i>)
Early Green Hairy	Cousin Bob
Langley Beauty	Whinham's Industry
Langley Gage	Ironmonger
(<i>Yellow.</i>)	Lancashire Lad
Early Sulphur	Warrington
Yellow Champagne	(<i>White.</i>)
	White Champagne
	Whitesmith

RASPBERRIES

Norwich Wonder	Superlative
Carter's Prolific	Yellow Antwerp

STRAWBERRIES

Keen's Seedling	Royal Sovereign
La Grosse Sucrée	Fillbasket
Louis Gauthier	Givon's Late Prolific
Sir Joseph Paxton	Waterloo

CHAPTER XXXII

GROWING BULBS IN FIBRE

The fascination that clings to bulb growing in fibre is due to the fact that ordinary flower-pots and soil are dispensed with.

THIS is quite one of the most fascinating branches of home gardening, and it is so simple that there is scarcely an excuse for failure. It enables anyone, even the most inexperienced, to have exquisite flowers from Christmas until the outdoor flowers of spring come into bloom, providing a succession of bulbs is grown. During the early summer months such flowers as Lily of the Valley, Lilliums, and Irises may be grown in fibre, but they are scarcely of such charm as those that open in winter and early spring, since they come with the outdoor flowers. The fascination that clings to bulb growing in fibre is due to the fact that ordinary flower pots and soil are dispensed with ; their place is taken by ornamental vases that are attractive to look at, and by a clean, soft, brown fibre expressly prepared for the purpose. Special vases and bowls, too, are sold for the bulbs, but there is no reason why vases and bowls already in the home should not be made use of. The prepared fibre known as moss fibre can be bought from all dealers in bulbs ;

GROWING BULBS IN FIBRE

it is rather more expensive than ordinary cocoanut fibre, but much better than the latter.

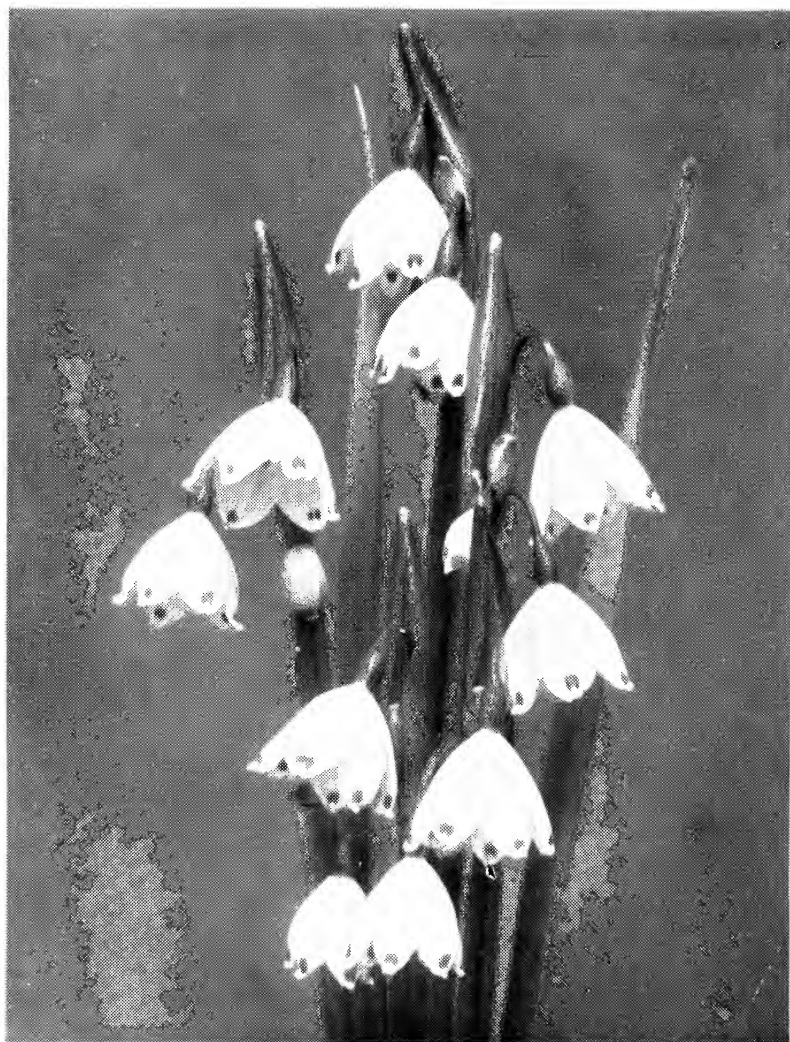
If a shallow bowl be used it will not be possible entirely to cover large bulbs such as Daffodils and Hyacinths, but this does not matter; they should, however, be half-covered. Deep vessels are not necessary. They produce no finer flowers than bulbs grown in shallow bowls, and the saving in fibre is considerable. Perhaps the greatest secret of success in growing bulbs in this way is always to keep the fibre moist. That is not to say it must be kept wet. It is difficult to give a satisfactory answer to the question so often asked: "How often should water be given?" Most probably if the fibre is moist, as it should be, when the bulbs are put in, water once a fortnight until the bulbs begin to grow will be often enough, and once a week afterwards. This is only given as a rough guide; the most satisfactory plan is to examine the fibre. If it appears somewhat dry, give water. The best place for the bulbs for the first six weeks is in a cool, dark room. If such a room be not available, they may be placed under a bed, or in a sunless room and covered with paper. The chief thing is to keep them cool and fairly dark. A closed cupboard is about the worst place for them. I usually put them under a table in a cool room and cover them with newspaper.

In six or eight weeks they will be well rooted and top growth becomes apparent. The latter is an indica-

THE GARDEN AT HOME

tion that they are ready to bring to the daylight. It is not wise to place them in full sun (if there should happen to be any!) at once, but after a few days the sunniest window is quite the best place for them. As soon as leaves are formed the more sunshine they have the better. Naturally, they must not be exposed to frost or cold winds, or growth will be checked and probably seriously crippled, but whenever the weather allows of it they should be placed on the sill outside the window. The more fresh air they have the sturdier they will be, and there is nothing more disappointing than to have tall, overgrown plants, the leaves of which flop about in all directions. Such plants as these may be expected when they have been grown in close, stuffy rooms too far away from light, sunshine, and air.

The inexperienced will meet with greatest success in growing Daffodils. Most bulbs can be grown in fibre, although some need more care than others. After Daffodils and Tulips, Hyacinths should be next attempted ; then the grower may try his hand with Crocuses, Snowdrops (although these are perhaps scarcely worth while), Scillas, Lilies, Lilies of the Valley, and bulbous Irises. Among Daffodils are, of course, included Jonquils, bunch-flowered Narcissi, Paper-white Narcissi, Trumpet Daffodils, and the many other sorts, practically all of which are most easily grown in fibre. In fact, there is no difficulty with any of the bulbs I have named, except the quite small ones, such as Snowdrops, Scillas, and Crocuses, if



THE SPRING SNOWFLAKE (*LEUCOJUM VERNUM*)



THE SANDWORT (ARENARIA) IN THE ROCK GARDEN

GROWING BULBS IN FIBRE

sufficient care is taken, although Daffodils are least likely to fail under incorrect treatment.

If flowers are wanted at Christmas, Roman Hyacinths and Paper-white Narcissi should be put in the fibre in early September ; Crocuses and Snowdrops ought also to be put in in September, Daffodils and Hyacinths in October, and Tulips in November. If the various bulbs are put in the fibre at intervals of a week or ten days, a succession of blossom will be obtained through the spring. That charming South African bulb, the Freesia, which gives its white, fragrant, yellow-throated flowers in the New Year, is also recommended for growing in fibre, but as it is not hardy, as are all the other bulbs mentioned, it must be jealously guarded from the cold.

Many people like to grow a few bulbs in glasses filled with water or in shallow bowls filled with pebbles and water, and there is not much difficulty about it. The ordinary large-flowered Hyacinths are the best for glasses, and the bunch-flowered Narcissi are most suitable for the second method. As everyone knows, special glasses are sold for the Hyacinths. Growing Hyacinths in glasses has an especial interest ; watching the progress of the roots down the sides of the glass possesses a fascination all its own. The best water to use for filling the glasses is clear rain water, and the traditional advice is to put one or two pieces of charcoal in the water to keep it "sweet." The base of the bulb should either just touch the surface of the water or—preferably—I think, be very

THE GARDEN AT HOME

slightly above it. If the water reaches, say, half-way up the bulb, as is sometimes allowed, the chances are that the latter will rot. The bulbs, having been placed in the glasses (Hyacinth glasses are far the best, since they are specially made to hold the bulb safely and conveniently), are put in a cool, airy, dark place for five or six weeks. Plenty of roots should have formed by then and leaf growth have commenced. After a day or two in a sunless window they need all the sunshine possible, and an abundance of fresh air when the weather is not cold.

In growing the Narcissi in shallow bowls, fill these about two-thirds with small pebbles. Use river or roadside pebbles, not those from the seashore; those of the size of peas are the best, since they give greater stability to the bulb. When large pebbles are used the bulbs are very likely to fall over if not supported by small sticks, and these detract considerably from the appearance of the flowers. Add water until it almost covers the pebbles, then put in the bulbs about an inch apart, embedding them slightly in the pebbles. They, too, must be placed in a dark, airy place until growth commences; then fresh air and sunshine should be the order of the day. As the water evaporates it must be replaced.

A point of some importance to observe in growing plants in the home is to turn them round occasionally, otherwise, as they naturally grow towards the light,

GROWING BULBS IN FIBRE

they will lean in one direction. Although the bunch-flowered Narcissi are most generally recommended for growing in pebbles and water, Hyacinths, Roman Hyacinths, and Daffodils may also be tried. The ordinary large-flowered Hyacinths are almost sure to need support, which may be given by special wire holders.

CHAPTER XXXIII

ON SEEDS AND SEED SOWING

The stories of mummy wheat that are still told to credulous tourists are ridiculed by expert seed growers.

THE conditions necessary to the germination of seeds are moisture, warmth, and air. Generally the less direct air the better; the requisite amount of moisture and the degree of warmth naturally vary largely according to the nature of the seeds. More skill is required to ensure successful germination of seeds under glass than out of doors. As a rule it may be said that the sower has less influence over the latter, although he can attend to such matters as giving shade and moisture. But seeds sown in the greenhouse or frame are completely under the grower's control, and are wholly dependent on his care. It need scarcely be said that neglect in the treatment of seeds and seedlings brings about far greater losses than in the case of grown plants.

Let us first consider the sowing of seeds outdoors. The size of the seeds is the first consideration, for one is advised to sow them at, roughly, a depth that is equal to three times their diameter. The practical teaching of this is that while large seeds—e.g. those of Peas, Beans,



A SPLENDID ROW OF SWEET PEAS

RAMBLING ROSE RUGA



ON SEEDS AND SEED SOWING

etc.—are put an inch or more deep, tiny seeds are scarcely, if at all, covered. The very small seeds are more easily killed than the large or comparatively large ones. In sowing minute seeds, such as those of Mignonette, Shirley Poppy, Virginian Stock, and many more, the seeds are merely scattered on the surface soil, and the latter is lightly raked over. This has the effect of giving a slight soil covering. In hot, dry weather the seeds should be moistened through a syringe morning and evening, and shade from a newspaper or piece of canvas, raised 2 or 3 inches above the ground by sticks, is most grateful to them, and prevents the ground becoming hard. There is little doubt that the reason many seeds fail to come up is owing to the surface soil having been allowed to get hard and dry. Continued moisture is essential to their germination. Seeds such as those of Scarlet Flax, Delphinium, Hollyhock and all others that may be classed as seeds of average size are suited, as a rule, by a covering of a quarter of an inch or so of soil.

Before seed sowing should come the preparation of the soil, which is accomplished by first digging, say, 12 inches deep, then forking over to break down large lumps, and finally raking. When sowing seeds of crops on a large area, rolling, too, becomes necessary as a means of breaking down lumps and making the land firm. But as a rule the rake bears the most important part in making the surface suitable for garden seeds. If the land has been well stirred, broken up by spade and fork,

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a very fine tilth may be obtained by raking, and this is most necessary, especially for the reception of small seeds, otherwise they may perish for lack of moisture. All gardeners should know that soil with a loose surface of finely broken soil retains moisture more effectually than that with a rough surface, for in the former case evaporation is less rapid than in the latter.

It is, as a rule, better to sow seeds in drills than broadcast. When it is intended to transplant the seedlings it is certainly proper to sow in drills, for the little plants may be found at a glance, whereas if sown broadcast it is likely enough that many will be killed by accidental means or possibly choked by weeds. When seeds are sown where they are to bloom in a bed or border, as in the case of annual flowers, it is usual to scatter the seed broadcast, since drill sowing would be liable to give stiff and unnatural results when the plants reached the blossoming stage. It is scarcely necessary, since it has been condemned so very frequently, to say much about the folly of sowing thickly. It is enough to urge that unnecessarily thick sowing not only wastes seed but gives inferior plants.

Thinning out the seedlings is a matter of moment ; careful as one may be, one is pretty sure to sow more seeds than one needs plants ; in fact, it would be unwise not to do so, for as a rule only a proportion of seeds sown out of doors produce seedlings. It is necessary, therefore, to overestimate rather than to underestimate.

ON SEEDS AND SEED SOWING

Thus a thinning of the little plants is not to be overlooked. To "thin out" well one should ascertain the approximate size of the kind of plant under consideration, and allow space accordingly.

In sowing seeds under glass the preparation of the seed pans, pots, or boxes is naturally one of importance ; an efficient drainage of crocks covered with moss or some similar material forms the best foundation, and the box or flower-pot is then filled to the rim with sifted soil, in which sand and leaf mould are freely mixed. Such a compost as this is suitable for raising seeds of almost every kind of greenhouse plant. Flower-pans are better than flower-pots, since they are shallow and the seedlings are more easily removed from them. Boxes are only used for raising plants that are required in large quantities, such, for instance, as Wallflowers, and other favourites. They are more generally used to receive the seedlings than for the sowing of seeds. Care should be taken to fill the pan or pot to the rim with soil, so that when the seedlings are ready for transplanting they may be removed without difficulty. It is not at all an easy matter to take up tiny, fragile seedlings when they are half an inch or more below the rim of the flower-pot. In doing so it is more than likely that the roots will be broken.

The seedlings are most simply removed with the help of a blunt-pointed stick, which is used by one hand to lift them, while the other gently pulls them out. It

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is obvious that seedlings will come out of fairly loose soil far more readily than from that which is very firm. This should be thought of when preparing the seed pan; make the soil only moderately firm.

Seeds should be sown on a flat surface, which is easily ensured by lightly pressing the soil down with a piece of board. Always, an hour or two before sowing the seeds, give water to the soil in the pots or pans, then probably none will be needed for a week. If it is, the vessel should be placed in a bowl of water to about two-thirds of its depth. The water will soon rise through the soil and moisten the surface. This method should be adopted as long as the seedlings are in the seed pan. When potted off singly, it is safe as a rule to water them through a "rose" on the spout of a water can. Time after time I have seen seedlings killed by overhead watering. The water washes them flat on the soil, and there they remain soon to "damp off." To allow a pot or pan full of little seedlings to become dry, or to expose it to strong sunshine, is usually to kill the plants, although some are hardier than others, and will withstand rougher treatment.

Golden rules to observe in seed sowing and the care of seedlings under glass are these: Sow the seed on moist soil in well-drained flower-pots or flower-pans filled to the rim, cover with glass until germination takes place, then place the seedlings near the roof glass, but shaded. Do not water from above, but by standing the



TOMATO SUNRISE GROWN ON A SUNNY WALL



FOXGLOVES AND CANTERBURY BELLS



GARDEN PATH WITH ROCKY MARGIN

ON SEEDS AND SEED SOWING

pot in water so that the moisture may rise. It is not necessary to cover the tiniest seeds with soil at all, but a very light sprinkling of silver sand is advisable ; those of average size that can be taken up singly without difficulty need a slight soil covering, something like a quarter of an inch ; large seeds, such as those of Sweet Peas, Sunflowers, etc., are sown in holes, an inch deep or more, made by a blunt stick.

The vitality of seeds is a most absorbing subject ; it is full of interest, of delightful surprises, and of paradoxes. The stories of the mummy wheat that are still, I believe, regularly told to credulous tourists in the land of Pharaoh, are now believed to have no foundation in fact, and are ridiculed by expert seed growers. No doubt the wheat sold as mummy wheat is a fraud, but this in itself would not disprove the long-keeping properties of wheat seed. However, I am content to believe those who tell us it is impossible for wheat seed to preserve its vitality for thousands of years. There seems little doubt that nobody knows how long seeds will remain dormant yet sound in the earth, when conditions are favourable. Seeds lose their vitality much more quickly when they are out of the soil than when they are embedded. But it is remarkable even then that they retain vitality long after they are supposed to have lost it.

In the year 1910 I chanced to come across a packet of Tomato seed that I had gathered and saved in 1901, nine years previously. I am sure of the date, for it was

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marked on the home-made seed packet. In the spring of 1910 I told a seed grower of this and asked if he thought there was any chance of its germinating. He thought the chances were small, and ventured the observation that after two or three years Tomato seed was, as a rule, valueless. If this is generally true, then my packet was the exception that is said to prove every rule, for I sowed the seed, which came up splendidly. Not only did it come up, but the seedlings grew into good plants that eventually produced fruit. If Tomato seed that was in a paper packet and stored in a drawer for nine years was perfectly sound, the question as to how much longer it would have remained sound if buried after a natural manner, deep in mother earth, is problematical and can command only a hypothetical answer. Thus we are led to the conclusion that absorbing though the question of seed vitality proves, it must remain a debatable subject. Conclusive tests would need to be carried out for generations.

For all practical purposes, and it is with these that the gardener is chiefly concerned, new seed is, with very few exceptions, preferable to old. Melon and Cucumber seed two or three seasons old is preferred by some gardeners. It germinates more quickly, and the sooner it starts into growth the fewer the vicissitudes it has to contend with and the more likely is the gardener to get full crops. Some seeds—for example, those of *Primula*, and particularly if they are old—will lie dor-

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mant for a year or more. It is on record that a seed of *Ranunculus* started into growth three years after it was sown. All who grow Sweet Peas know that, as a rule, the seeds show through the soil in about three weeks after sowing. A case came to my notice in which seed was sown in April and sprouted in September. I think this must surely be a record for such an ordinarily quick-growing seed as the Sweet Pea.

There are instances of seeds of Melon forty years old, of Kidney Bean a hundred years, and of the sensitive plant (*Mimosa pudica*) sixty years old having been known to germinate. Seeds of some Alpine plants, Crab, Thorn, and Conifer, germinate very irregularly. If sown in pots in autumn, the pots being left out of doors during winter, the seeds often germinate when placed in a warm house in spring. I would advise the gardener never to throw away seed simply because it is old. The best way to prove its worth is to sow it and pass judgment on the resulting crops. Generally, all seed is good for at least a year, and probably very much longer.

The proper time to sow seeds is as soon as they are ripe, in the way that Nature does. Everyone who has a garden must have noticed that self-sown seed produces, as a rule, finer plants than seed sown by the gardener. This is no doubt partly due to the fact that as soon as ready the seed falls to the ground and there either at once finds the necessary conditions that ensure germination or a covering of leaves, soil, etc., that

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enables it to wait the essential conditions without loss of vitality. But it is not always convenient for the gardener to sow seed as soon as it is ripe, so he keeps it for a few weeks or months, as the case may be, until it suits him to sow. Most of us buy our seeds in the spring, and sow then, for the simple reason that the awakening sunshine and increasing warmth provide ideal conditions for their germination. If we secured home-saved seed and sowed it as soon as gathered, the difference between the resulting plants might not be noticeable in some cases, while in others it would.

A few seeds have an especially hard outer covering. Common examples are found in those of Canna or Indian Shot, Palms, and Sweet Peas. The two former are sometimes particularly slow to germinate, and it is usual to soak them in water for twenty-four hours, having the water hot when the seeds are first put in. Sweet Peas may be treated in the same way though, as a rule, they do not need it. Some growers chip off a piece of the hard covering, taking care not to damage the growing point, which may easily be detected. Oily seeds, such, for instance, as those of Chestnut, Walnut, and Oak, lose their vitality most quickly, and should be sown as soon as ripe. This advice also applies to seeds that are notoriously slow or difficult to germinate—e.g. Daffodil, Auricula, Primula, Gentian, and Phlox. Some seeds suffer much more through being stored than others, and they are found chiefly amongst hardy perennial plants, trees, and



AN OLD CARMINE RED ROSE (CULRICH BRUNNER) THAT BEARS UNUSUALLY LARGE BLOSSOMS



PINK ORIENTAL POPPIES

ON SEEDS AND SEED SOWING

shrubs. Thus it is advisable to sow seeds of these in autumn as soon as they can be obtained. Many will germinate satisfactorily if sown in spring, others will not.

The seeds of hardy perennials, a class that includes so many popular border plants—e.g. Delphinium, Lupin, Hollyhock, etc., are best sown in boxes in autumn, the seedlings passing the winter in a cold frame. In spring they may be sown outdoors in drills on a well-prepared border in semi-shade. Hardy annuals are commonly sown where they are to bloom, in autumn for spring and early summer flowers, in spring for summer and autumn bloom. Seeds of choice hardy trees and shrubs are generally sown in boxes, which may be left outside all the winter. Seeds of the giant Water Lily (*Victoria Regia*), and of the Indian Rice (*Zizania aquatica*), also a water plant, are best kept in water until sowing time.

It is well for the practical gardener to know that there are two chief classes of seeds, called albuminous and exalbuminous, for this knowledge has a practical bearing. In the former class the seedling derives nourishment from the seed until able to look after itself, while in the case of exalbuminous seeds sustenance is at first derived from the seed leaves or cotyledons. The Pea is an example of the albuminous seed, and if, while the seedling is quite young, the seed is cut off, the plant will die. An excellent example of an exalbuminous seed is found in the Tomato; as the first leaves grow the

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husk of the seed is carried up with them, and finally thrown off. Most of the seeds with which the gardener has to deal are exalbuminous, in which case the seedling itself disposes of the husk after its first leaves are formed.

Propagation by means of seeds is the natural way, and it has this advantage, that the progeny is usually more vigorous and longer lived than that raised by methods that may be described as artificial—e.g. by cuttings, division, layers, etc. Seeds from species or wild types of plants breed true, unless the flowers have been cross fertilised; that is to say, the seedlings will be like the parents were. Seeds of varieties (that is, variations from the type) do not necessarily breed true, although seeds of named varieties of flowers which have been carefully selected and “rogued” and are sold by seedsmen, vary little if at all. This is the case, for instance, in many varieties of annuals, which come perfectly true from seed. By careful and continued selection, a variety becomes fixed. Supposing, for instance, we bought a packet of mixed seed of Dahlia or Delphinium and of the several varieties that appeared one happened to be especially pleasing and the grower wished to perpetuate it. Seed saved from the chosen flower would not come true, and it would take several years to eliminate all rogues and to get the variety “fixed.” A simpler method would be to take cuttings or divide the roots of the chosen plant—these would yield flowers like those of the parent.

CHAPTER XXXIV

SUBURBAN GARDENING

Snubbing a greenfly here, a wireworm there, a tender tie to a tender shoot, a stout stake to a strong one.

I AM one of those who believe that flowers—at least many flowers, nearly all those that count in the making of a beautiful garden—can be grown almost if not quite as well in the suburbs as in the country. They need a little more care, perhaps, a little closer attention at critical moments, snubbing a greenfly here, a wireworm there, a tender tie to a tender shoot, a stout stake to a strong one—but what does it all mean? Why, just a closer acquaintance with the flowers one grows, an acquaintance that ripens to friendship, and through friendship reaches love.

How first shall we proceed so that the garden shall be different from others, express something of our thoughts, and have an individuality of its own? The more closely it approximates to the ideal that is enshrined in the owner's mind the greater charm will it possess. Each of us has, I think, an ideal enshrined; the suburban gardener's difficulty is to give practical expression to his ideal, and more often than not his failure is due to

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the non-observance of a few elementary principles of garden craft. The very first thing to do is to ensure as much privacy as is possible in the circumstances, and it is important in doing so to have regard to the effect on the garden as a whole of the proposed alterations. It would be a great mistake to shut in the garden, as with a wall, by shutting out the surroundings even though they consist of such prosaic material as the bricks and mortar of the ubiquitous builder. In shutting in a garden in this way its boundaries are defined, its circumference is girdled, its extent made plain. And this, of course, is exactly what we should endeavour to avoid. Our aim must be to magnify its size, to create illusion and, strange though it may seem, this may be accomplished with the same stroke of the gardener's brush that sets the boundary. For is he not an artist with his outlook for a canvas, Nature's bounty for his palette, and her colours for his paints?

The indefinite horizon shall be our aim. Whether 40 feet by 60 feet puts the limit to our going, or whether the delights of a quarter of an acre are to be ours, the methods are much the same. There shall be no thickly-set Lombardy Poplars shutting out the sunshine, ever reminding us how ridiculously small is our garden plot, and impressing us with a sense of the futility of effort. Nothing is so fatal to success as this. We will have a boundary of bright spring blossom and coloured autumn leaves, casting alluring shadows at noon, and through

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which the sunshine filters in welcome shafts at evening. Of what shall we plant our boundary so that, while shutting out all impression of near objects, it may still give us glimpses of them, and so create an illusion of distance? Just a glimpse of sky, trees, house tops, of a church spire, even of ugly chimneys, may and does place these at an indefinite distance when seen through an opening of trees or a creeper-covered arch.

If we follow the example of Mr. G. Hillyard Swinstead, as described in his charming book, "The Story of my Old-world Garden and how I made it in a London Suburb," we shall use trained Apple, Cherry, and Almond trees. Mr. Swinstead says that "My boundary screen formed of these trees looks delightful in spring time with early pink and white blossoms and delicate green, contrasting with the coppery red leaf of the *Prunus Pissardi*. The Crab Apple is charming for this purpose, with its flower in spring and crimson fruit in autumn."

The great charm of a screen of this kind is that while it ensures privacy to the garden it does not shut out the sunshine, as, for instance, a close planting of Laurel, Ivy, and other evergreen creepers does. The latter have an advantage in winter, it is true, since they are leaf-covered, while those recommended are bare. However, they are at a disadvantage in that they shade the ground when sunshine is most precious, and when the ground is most in need of it. We cannot have it both ways. I recommend as the alternative most to be desired, and

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as the most natural planting, a screen of leaf-losing trees. There are many from which to choose, although we can, perhaps, select nothing better than those named ; some of them may give us fruit as well as blossom. But, after all, in this case fruit is quite a minor consideration, and we may choose just as freely from ornamental flowering shrubs, such, for instance, as double White Cherry ; Veitch's Cherry, which has great pink blossom bunches that remind one of nothing so much as the now familiar pictures of spring time in Japan ; Abbé David's Almond (*Prunus davidiana*), which has pink flowers and opens first of all ; Snowy Mespilus (*Amelanchier canadensis*), that smothers its bare shoots with beautiful white blossom in April ; those exquisite rose-red-flowered Peaches of which *flore-roseo-pleno* is perhaps the best ; the Siberian Crab ; and that most loved of all the flowering Apples, *Pyrus floribunda*. All these blossom in spring and in autumn ; some have beautiful leaves, and the Crab has fruits good to look upon if not to eat, though they make delicious jelly.

If we decide to make a covered way all round the garden we shall have opportunities of using many most charming climbing plants, as well as other trees and shrubs not mentioned. For instance, we shall be able to use, as they should be, but unfortunately seldom are, used, the *Wistaria* and *Laburnum*. Then what a perfect home for those glorious climbing Roses in which our collections are now so rich ! There they find ideal con-



ROSE BLUSH RAMBLE



DAFFODIL TIME

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ditions for the display of their gorgeous flowers above cool, green leaves. There, too, the Clematis in many varieties may fling their lissom flower-decked shoots in company with Jessamine and Vine. A flower-way such as this is of interest even in winter; in spring the bursting buds, and in summer the opening flowers transform it into a little paradise for garden lovers. A plant that I have used with peculiar success to form an indefinite boundary is a most graceful creeper that passes by the name of *Polygonum baldschuanicum*. In May and in September, when the glory of the garden begins to wane, the *Polygonum* is in full beauty with drooping panicles of creamy blossom. This plant is really a most prodigious grower, and will readily reach a height of 15 to 20 feet. It is often used with good effect against a dark-leaved tree, such, for instance, as Cypress or other Conifer. The boundary is the all important part of a garden in the suburbs, and too much care can scarcely be devoted to its planting. Few of us are so selfish as to wish to shut out our neighbours altogether; we are not averse to his having glimpses of our little paradise, providing our privacy is assured. Besides, as I have pointed out, if we shut in the garden we also shut out the sunshine.

Within the space defined by the covered way or walls, what shall we do? We may do almost anything we wish within the limitations imposed by the size of the garden itself. Shall it be a Rose garden, a little paved

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garden, a garden of flower borders, or a garden of some special flower, or shall it be an association of all these ? It is surely a question for the garden owner, who will naturally consult his own likes and dislikes. Some part of it should be given up to Roses, for Roses grow admirably in the suburbs, particularly the climbing sorts.

The climbing Rose has a double value, since while helping to form an ideal boundary it also gives rich flower beauty. As space is scarce in the suburbs, we must choose only those Roses that bloom continuously. They are as numerous as those that blossom only once, and they are, of course, immeasurably more satisfactory. Here are the names of some of them : Richmond, red ; Madame Ravary, yellow ; Madame A. Chatenay, salmon and rose ; Hugh Dickson, crimson ; Caroline Testout, pink ; La France, light pink ; Grace Darling, rose and salmon ; Lady Ashtown, pink ; Comtesse du Cayla, a lovely China rose of sunset colouring ; the old Pink China ; Armosa, a pretty, old-fashioned Bourbon Rose, with pink flowers, nearly always in bloom ; Coralina, coral pink ; Betty, rose and pink shades. There are plenty of others described in the chapter on Roses ; these are just a few of the best. Among climbing sorts will, of course, be chosen that evergreen favourite, Dorothy Perkins, together with Hiawatha, a beautiful crimson-flowered variety ; White Dorothy Perkins, Blush Rambler, Tausendschön, Tea Rambler, and perhaps Crimson Rambler, all of which grow vigorously and bloom freely.

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Border flowers that are not excelled for the suburban garden are Flag or German Irises. There is no reason why one's borders should be filled with the common purple kind, although that is certainly most attractive, for many beautiful varieties are now to be obtained in exquisite colour shades. All the strong perennials thrive well in suburban gardens, but as all are not worth growing where garden room is scarce we must choose the best. These must include Delphinium, or Larkspur, Pyrethrum, Phlox, Lupin, I think (although they are rather untidy after the flowers are over), Perennial Marguerite (*Chrysanthemum maximum*), Peach-leaved Bellflower, Carnations, of course, and preferably from seed, Pinks, *Geum miniatum*, Hollyhocks, that beautiful blue Veronica called *longifolia*, and the Golden Sneezewort (*Helenium autumnale pumilum*). I give its full style and title so that they who wish may obtain the right thing.

To prolong the flower display into autumn, we must have Michaelmas Daisies and the small-flowered Chrysanthemums, with perhaps Montbretias, Gladioli, and that fine white-flowered bulb, the Cape Hyacinth (*Hyacinthus candicans*), if we can find room for them. Dahlias are beautiful autumn flowers, especially the single sorts that are so easily grown from seed, and the suburb garden suits them. Other favourites that are quite indispensable are the Indian Pinks, Zinnias, Candytuft, Shirley Poppies, Mallow, Scarlet Flax, Love-in-a-Mist, and Mignonette,

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that come so readily from seed. All except the Indian Pinks and Zinnias are sown where they are to bloom ; these two are sown in a greenhouse in early spring and planted out of doors in April. Sweet Peas are certainly not to be neglected, since, if well grown, they bloom throughout such a long period and are unsurpassed for cutting.

It is a great mistake to attempt to grow too many kinds of plants in a small suburban garden ; they are apt to promote an untidy appearance, and this, above all things, is to be avoided. Mrs. Earle, in her delightful " Pot Pourri from a Surrey Garden," has this remark : " In spite of all the charming things Mr. Robinson says about it, ' wild gardening ' is, I am sure, a delusion and a snare." This is most true of a suburban garden when it has got out of hand ; when, in fact, it has run wild. Unless a small garden is kept neat and trim the owner will never derive as much pleasure from it as he might do in other circumstances. It is astonishing how great a difference closely mown grass, neatly cut edges, clean and well rolled walks make to the appearance of a little garden, and it is even more remarkable how they increase one's pleasure in the plants and flowers. For this reason I advise the owner of a garden in the suburbs to fashion his garden in formal style, and to plant it largely with plants of neat habit of growth, plants that do not " flop " about when their flowers are over.

It is best to have paths of stone or brick ; their instal-

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lation is somewhat expensive, and probably for this reason some will be deterred from acting on this advice, but they have the great advantage of providing a dry path all the year round. They are always neat, weeds are easily got rid of, and they add to the attractiveness of the flowers and the charm of the garden generally. Low walls of stone or brick may fringe the beds, stone being preferable. The chinks between the stones provide a home for such things as Rock Cress, Evergreen Candy-tuft, Violet Cress, Lavender, and Pinks. Of plants that are well suited to growing in the beds may be mentioned Flag Irises, Spanish Irises, English Irises, Japanese Primulas, Jacob's Ladder (*Polemonium*), Lavender, China Roses, Tufted Pansies (renewed each year from cuttings), Carnations, Pinks, Bellflowers or Campanulas, as, for instance *Campanula carpatica* and *persicæfolia* (the latter being the beautiful Peach-leaved Bellflower), together with Canterbury Bells.

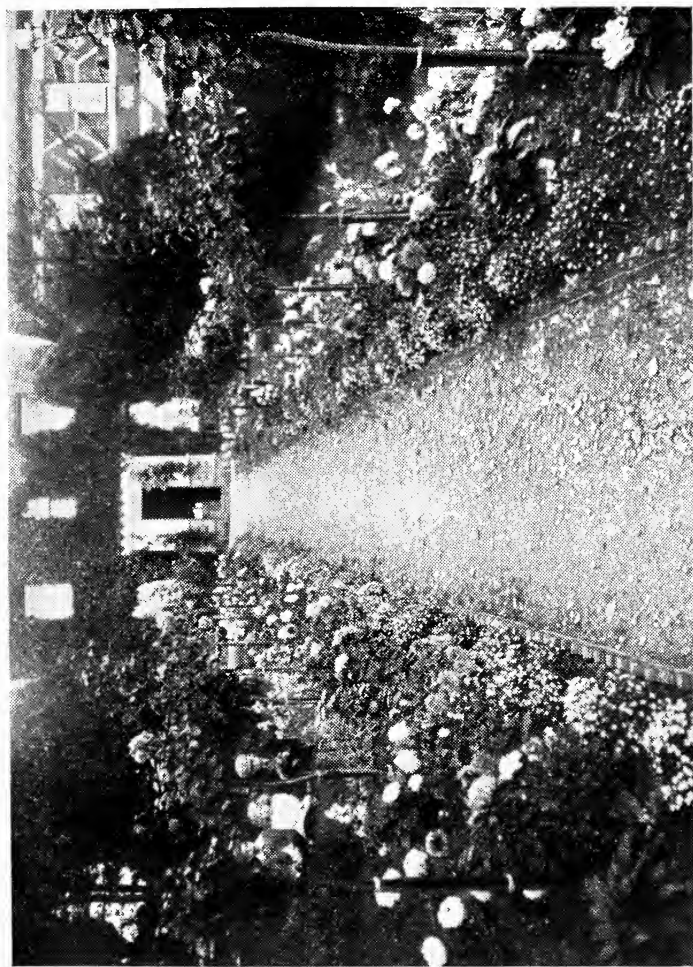
Many bulbs, too, are suitable—e.g. the netted Iris (*reticulata*) and others of its class; Daffodils, Snowdrops, Tulips, Gladioli, and Montbretias. All are of neat growth, and are very easily kept tidy. It must be admitted that spring bulbs are something of a nuisance when their flowers are over. When only a few are grown the cost of renewing them every year is not great, and one has the satisfaction of knowing that they will bloom better than those left in the ground from year to year.

Of shrubs suitable for covering the fences I may

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mention the Winter Sweet (*Chimonanthus fragrans*), that gives its fragrant flowers in January ; the Golden Bell, that blooms in February and March ; gold and silver Ivies ; the Japanese Quince, with bright red Apple-blossom-like flowers in March ; *Prunus triloba*, a lovely free-flowering ornamental Plum that does not bear fruits ; Roses, already described ; summer-flowering Jasmine ; *Clematis Jackmani*, with showy purple blooms in August and September ; *Clematis Vitalba*, or Traveller's Joy, that is at its best in autumn. For covering arches and arbours the suburban gardener has the choice of practically all the beautiful climbing Roses mentioned in the chapter on Roses, together with the lovely white-flowered Mountain Clematis, that blooms in May ; Honeysuckle, and, if he wishes and has room for them, some of the beautiful ornamental Vines, whose beauty is in their foliage.

Fruit trees may, of course, be grown on the fence, and, in addition to the spring display of blossom, there will be the autumn gathering of fruit. Pears are, I think, the most satisfactory of all, and they may be grown in cordon form, or with branches trained horizontally. The cordons, which may be had with either one, two, or three stems, are useful because they do not take up much room. Good varieties are Williams' Bon Chrétien, Conference, Jargonelle, Louise Bonne of Jersey, Marie Louise. Conference is one of the best of all Pears for yielding a good and regular crop. Plums may be grown,



A BORDER OF ASTERS IN THE HOME GARDEN



A FOXGLOVE BORDER

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but with the exception of Victoria, are rather uncertain in cropping. Apples are best grown as bush trees in the open garden. They should be obtained grafted on the broad-leaved English Paradise stock. There is really very little in the way of fruit, flowers, or vegetables that the suburban gardener may not grow if his garden is a sunny one, and a few miles from a town, providing the plants are given good cultivation. It is when the plants are deprived of light and sunshine by high walls and house tops that gardening becomes a very difficult matter.

POPULAR VEGETABLES

A TABLE FOR READY REFERENCE

<i>Name</i>	<i>Soil</i>	<i>When to Sow</i>	<i>Distance apart of Plants</i>	<i>Crop Ready</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
Artichoke, Chinese	Sandy	April	1 foot	October	Tubers very small, used for soups, etc.
"	Rich	Spring	3 feet	Two years	Large thistle-like heads, tips of which are eaten
"	Ordinary	March	1½ "	October	In addition to culinary value, useful as screens
Asparagus, various	Rich	April	15 by 15 in.	Three years	Beds usually formed by planting three-year-old crowns
Beans, broad	Heavy	Feb. to April	12 by 12 in.	June	Nip out points when in flower to destroy fly
" dwarf	Very rich	April—June	18 by 9 in.	July	These appreciate plenty of moisture and manure
" runner	" "	May—June	9 by 12 in.	July—Oct.	The distance is for a double row in a trench (if more than one row, allow six feet between the rows)
Beetroot, Globe	Light	March	12 by 8 in.	June	All Beetroots require a well dug but not heavily manured soil, excepting Spinach Beet
" tap-rooted	Deep	May	15 by 12 in.	August	All this family do best on very firm and rich soil. Water during hot weather and protect the heads when formed against severe cold
" Spinach	Rich	March—Sept.	12 by 10 in.	June	These repay generous treatment, and should be well watered in dry weather and have a little nitrate of soda sprinkled among them occasionally
Broccoli, early	"	April—May	2½ feet	December	
" midwinter	"	April—May	"	Dec.—March	
" late	"	May	"	April—May	
" sprouting	"	April	"	Feb.—May	
Brussels Sprouts	"	March—May	"	Sept.—April	
Cabbage, spring	"	July—Aug.	18 by 15 in.	March—April	
" summer	"	March—May	"	Aug.—Nov.	
" red pickling	"	March	2 feet	November	

POPULAR VEGETABLES—A TABLE FOR READY REFERENCE.—Continued.

<i>Name</i>	<i>Soil</i>	<i>When to Sow</i>	<i>Distance apart of Plants</i>	<i>Crop Ready</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
Carrots, short	Sandy	March	6 inches	June	Avoid land manured with fresh manure, giving preference to leaf-soil. Soot is a capital stimulant for these Good varieties: Early Snowball, Early Crop, Magnum Bonum Good varieties: Walcheren, Autumn Giant
" interm'd'te.	"	April	12 "	August	
Cauliflower, early	Rich	Feb., in heat	15 "	June	
" late	"	April	2 feet	July—Oct.	
Celery, early	"	Feb. in heat	10 inches	August	Celery should be grown in trenches and kept constantly watered; blanch the stems when growth is nearly complete
" late	"	March—April	12 "	November	
Cucumbers, various	"	Jan.—Sept., in heat	18 "	10 weeks	Keep a moist atmosphere and give manures freely
" outdoor	"	April	12 "	August	Raise in heat, plant out in June, give plenty of water
Endive, curled or broad	Medium	May	12 "	"	These require to be blanched before using for salads
Leeks, various	Rich	March	9 by 12 in.	November	Treat as for Celery and cut the tips off the leaves occasionally
Lettuce, "	"	March—July	12 inches	10 weeks	To prevent premature seeding, keep well supplied with water
Onions, exhibition	"	Jan., in heat	15 "		Good varieties: Ailsa Craig, Excelsior, Premier, Record
" general crop	"	March	9 "		Good varieties: Improved Banbury, Rousham Park
Parsley, moss curled	Medium	March	6 "		To grow large Onions constant surface feeding is absolutely necessary Thin out early and in winter protect from severe frosts

POPULAR VEGETABLES—A TABLE FOR READY REFERENCE.—Continued

<i>Name</i>	<i>Soil</i>	<i>When to Sow</i>	<i>Distance apart of Plants</i>	<i>Crop Ready</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
Peas, early forcing	Rich	Jan., in heat	2 inches	May	Peas when grown outdoors should always be in shallow trenches, each trench containing four or more rows of Peas. Protect from birds and mice by intermingling for half an hour in petroleum, give abundant supplies of water and liquid manure when pods are forming
" outdoor	"	Feb.	"	June	
" midseason	"	March—April	"	July	
" late	"	May—June	3	Aug.—Sept.	
Potatoes, early midseason	Light Medium	March April	18 by 15 in. 24 by 15 in.	June August	Potatoes appreciate a liberal amount of manure added to the soil and change of seed each year
Radish, various	Light	Feb.—July	4 inches	8 weeks	A quick growth is necessary to ensure crisp roots
Salsify	"	May	12 "	October	Avoid manure for this crop or the roots become of bad shape
Spinach, round prickly	Rich	March—Aug. September	"	10 weeks	Sow on well prepared soil and thin out early or much of the crop will be lost through seeding
" perpetual (see Beetroot)	"	"	"	"	"
Tomato, various	Medium	Jan.—April March	18 "	14—16 weeks	A firm soil and no feeding until after a fair crop is set are important points in the culture
" for outdoor	"	"	15 "	Aug.—Oct.	"
Turnip, various	Rich	March—Aug.	12 "	10—12 weeks	To protect against fly, dust occasionally with soot
Vegetable Marrow	"	April	3 feet	Aug.—Oct.	Keep well watered and cut all fruit while young

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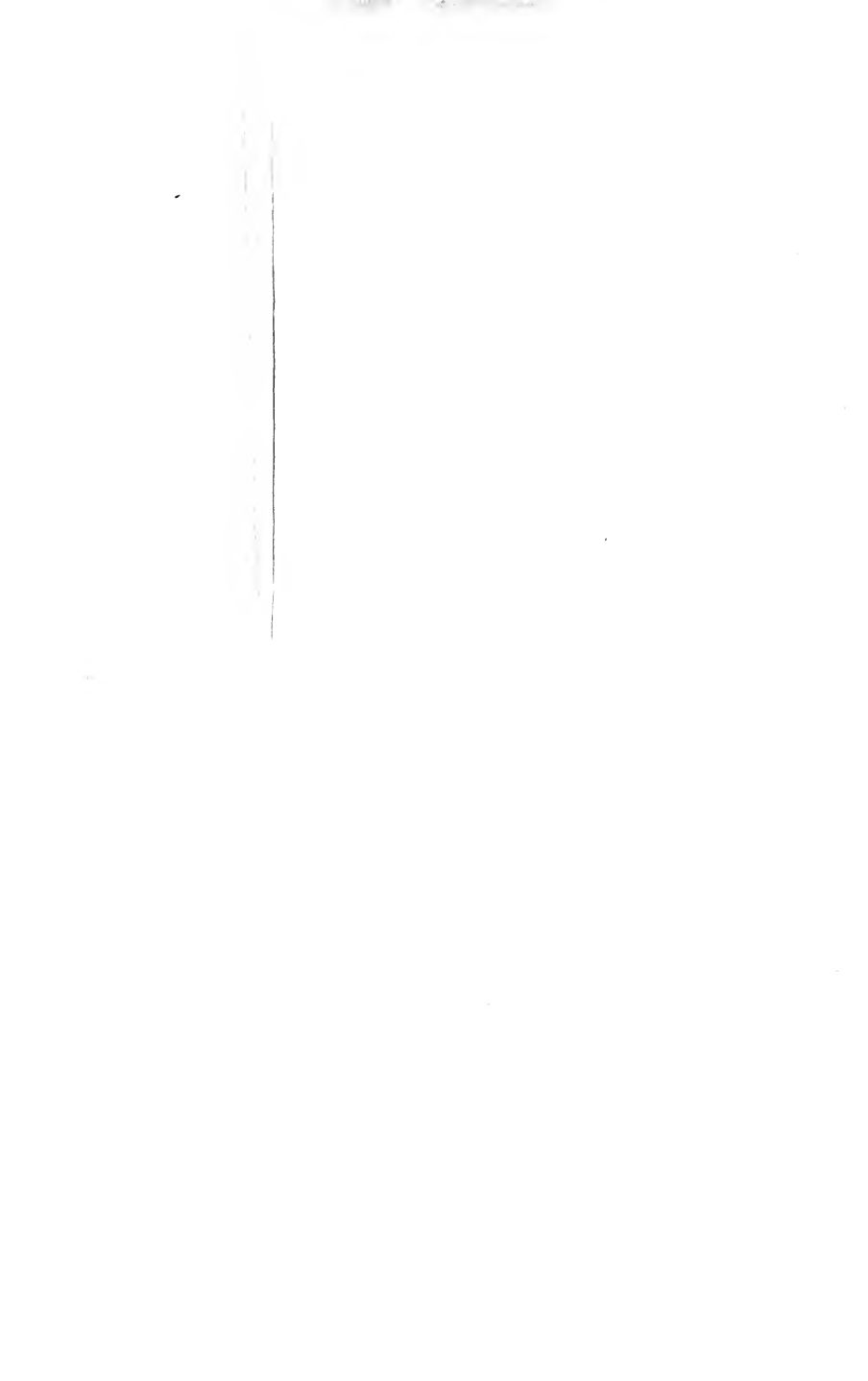
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